

product health and safety

from Tarmac Topblock

Authority

Issued under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, the Consumer Protection Act 1987 and Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002.

Name of Company

Tarmac Topblock Limited
 Millfields Road
 Wolverhampton
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 WV4 6JP

Products

Aggregate and aircrete concrete building blocks under the product names listed are hereafter described as 'concrete blocks' unless specifically described otherwise.

Composition

Depending on block type, aggregate concrete blocks are manufactured from cement, water and a combination of one or more of the following materials: pulverised fuel ash, lightweight or natural aggregates.

Aircrete blocks are manufactured from sand, cementitious binders, aluminium slurry and water.

Application

Concrete blocks are designed and manufactured in various densities, strengths and sizes. They are mainly used in the construction of walls and floors, and are usually bonded together with mortar. In certain circumstances, they may be used singularly or unbonded. Concrete blocks must be used strictly in accordance with relevant British or European Standards and Building Regulations.



Product names

Aircrete Blocks	Aggregate Blocks
Durox	Hemelite
Toplite	Topcrete

Note Bricks, coursing units, paint quality and fair face blocks, foundation blocks, flooring blocks and ancillary units are included within these product names

Topblock *product health and safety*

Hazards identification

The products, within the meaning of the Health and Safety at Work Act, are inherently safe, but some hazards are identified thus:

- The comparatively rough surface finish and sharp edges of concrete blocks require care when handling manually, to avoid risks of cuts or abrasions.
- Wet blocks may exhibit alkalinity owing to the cement constituent and care should be taken when handling manually to avoid burns to the skin.
- The unit's weight and size should be taken into account when handling, to avoid dropping or strains when lifting.
- Silica dust from concrete blocks can be harmful if inhaled or ingested and, as with any dust, may cause irritation to the respiratory and digestive tract.
- Plastic packaging materials are combustible and may constitute a fire hazard.

First-aid measures

There are no specific requirements when using concrete blocks, other than the treatment of minor injuries. For example, treat dust in the mouth or eye by washing liberally with clean water. Where eye contact occurs, the area must be immediately and thoroughly irrigated using water or a suitable eyewash. Treat dust on the skin by washing liberally with soap and clean water.

In case of doubt, or when symptoms persist, medical advice must be sought.

Fire-fighting measures

In the event of fire, concrete blocks are not combustible. However, plastic shrink-wrapping, edging strips and timber pallets will burn if ignited. These materials will produce noxious fumes when burnt, and personnel should not be exposed to these. After a fire, packaged concrete blocks may become unstable. They should not be lifted or moved under any circumstances until a competent person has assessed the situation and permission to proceed has been granted.

Accident release measures

Not applicable.



Delivery, handling and storage

- Concrete blocks are generally delivered by road transport and are off-loaded mechanically. When lifted by grab, crane or fork truck, no personnel should be permitted beneath the load. When vehicles are offloading, any overhead power lines or cables should be isolated or otherwise adequately protected.
- Concrete blocks should always be stacked on a clean, firm, level base to avoid collapse. To prevent the risk of injury from loose blocks falling, avoid stacking packs of blocks above normal head height unless they are to be handled by mechanical methods.
- Ensure suitable stack heights are maintained according to ground conditions – never stack packs more than three high.
- Minimise manual handling by delivering units as close to the point of laying as safety considerations permit.
- When concrete blocks are banded or wrapped, care should be taken when removing the banding to avoid injury from the band under tension, or any loose blocks falling when the banding or wrapping is released.

- To avoid trips or falls, the blocklaying work area should be clear of obstructions and properly organised.

Exposure controls/ personal protection

During the processes of cutting, drilling or chasing concrete blocks, there is likely to be exposure to respirable dust. Workplace Exposure Limits should be determined in accordance with EH40, published by the Health and Safety Executive.

The normal protective clothing recommended for wear on building sites, e.g. safety footwear, head protection and gloves, is required. In addition, suitable goggles and dust masks conforming to the appropriate British or European Standard should be worn during the processes of cutting, chasing or drilling.

When working with light - coloured concrete blocks in bright daylight conditions, glare may be experienced and it may be appropriate that suitable eye protection should be worn.

Physical and chemical properties

Concrete blocks are inert when supplied. The main constituents are lightweight and natural aggregates (depending on block type) which contain silica, pulverised fuel ash – containing amorphous silica and various metal oxides – and cement mainly comprising calcium silicate and calcium aluminate.

Stability and reactivity

Not applicable.

Toxicological information

Not applicable.

Ecological information

Not applicable.

Transportation information

Concrete blocks are not subject to hazardous substance conveyance regulations, and vehicle and package labelling is not required.

Disposal considerations

All waste materials should be disposed of at a suitable licensed disposal facility, preferably by recycling or re-use. Advice on a preferred method should be obtained from the Environmental Agency (England and Wales) or the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).

Other information

Tarmac Topblock's technical staff are on hand to render assistance with written or telephone enquiries.

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Topblock supply blocks nationally. To make contact with our sales organisation it could not be easier!

National Sales Helpline

Call us on: 0845 606 2468

Technical Helpline

Call us on: 0870 242 1489

E-mail: technical.services@tarmac.co.uk

The product brochures available include:

Durox - *aircrete blocks*

Durox System - *thin joint blocks*

Toplite - *aircrete blocks*

Hemelite & Topcrete - *lightweight & dense aggregate blocks*

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Literature requests:

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Quote reference L118

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