



Marley Eternit Limited
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HEALTH AND SAFETY PRODUCT DATA SHEET FIBRE CEMENT SLATES

The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH), requirements of The Health and Safety at Work Act, The Consumer Protection Act and The Chemicals (Hazard Information and Packaging for Supply) Regulations, requires us to provide relevant information regarding our products in respect of its properties, correct use, storage/handling and disposal without risk to health.

PRODUCT

Slates are either smooth or textured rigid rectangular products with through pigmentation and factory applied surface coatings in a number of colours.

COMPOSITION

Manufactured from Portland cement and water, reinforced with natural and synthetic fibres and fillers, either fully or semi-compressed. If through coloured they will contain pigments. If surface coated this coating will be a water-based acrylic resin with pigments.

HAZARD IDENTIFICATION

If machined mechanically, fibre cement slates will release dust. Inhalation of high concentrations of dust may irritate the airways. Dust may also cause irritation of the eyes and/or skin.

FIRST AID MEASURES

There are no specific requirements when using fibre cement slate other than the appropriate treatment of minor injuries.

Damage to skin - Wash with water and apply sterile dressing.

Dust in mouth or eyes - Irrigate liberally with water.

Accidents where products strike or crush parts of the body should be referred to a suitably qualified medical practitioner. In all cases of doubt or where symptoms persist, medical advice should be obtained.

FIRE FIGHTING MEASURES

Fibre cement slates will not support combustion. However, the painted surface will burn if heated fiercely but will extinguish on removal of the ignition source. No special fire fighting procedures or extinguishing media's are required to deal with burning products. The thermal decomposition of acrylics used both in production and surface coatings may yield toxic monomer fumes.

ACCIDENTAL RELEASE MEASURES

Not applicable

HANDLING AND STORAGE

Handling

Where plastic banding is used to contain tiles, the bands are under tension and may fly when cut. Caution should be taken when cutting these straps to prevent any damage. To prevent injury from falling tiles, each end of the pack should be supported prior to the cutting of the plastic banding. Packs should not be lifted by polythene or plastic banding alone, but by correctly positioned handling forks. Tile packs should be stored on dry level ground no more than 3 packs high whilst pallets containing fittings should not be stacked. Attention should be given to the weight of some of the tile packs when being handled. Personal injury due to strains and ruptures should be avoided if the requirements of The Manual Handling Operations Regulations are implemented.

Storage

Packs can be stacked a maximum of three high on a dry level surface. Slates should not be allowed to become wet in storage. If slates are stored outside, the polythene hood should be removed and the slates open stacked and covered with a tarpaulin. This is to allow free air movement and to avoid the risk of condensation forming within the pack, which could cause efflorescence.

EXPOSURE CONTROLS/PERSONAL PROTECTION

Fibre cement slates have edges that may be sharp or abrasive, therefore suitable gloves should be worn when handling. When handling wet tiles, impervious PVC or Nitrile gloves should be worn. Other suitable personal protective equipment should also be worn to prevent contact with the wet tile surface, which may become alkali. As a general rule try to eliminate the exposure to dust. Work in a well-ventilated area. Use dust suppression techniques where practicable. The use of angle grinders is not recommended and slates can be cut by scribing and breaking over a straight edge or by using a normal hand saw with teeth of 3-3.5mm pitch preferably wide set. Collect dust with a vacuum cleaner, hose down or wet sweep work areas. An approved respirator must be worn to prevent the inhalation of dust when other measures fail to adequately control the dust produced during the mechanical machining of the products.

Workplace Exposure Limit

Dust – 8 hr T.W.A.

10 mgm³ (total inhalable dust)

4 mgm³ (total respirable dust)

PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

Fibre cement slates are inert and solid when supplied. The cement is predominately made up of calcium silicate and calcium aluminate. The pigments used in production are mainly iron oxide, although other oxides may be present in varying quantities. Naturally occurring mineral fillers along with natural and synthetic fibres are bound in to the cement matrix.

STABILITY AND REACTIVITY

Slates are unaffected by general levels of atmospheric pollution. If the slates are to be exposed to aggressive environments, the advice of our Technical Dept. should be sought.

TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION

Low order of acute toxicity.

ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

Fibre cement products will not degrade in the ground.

DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS

Redundant product and packaging should be recycled where this facility exists, or disposed of by a registered carrier to an approved landfill site. Waste polythene can be incinerated under approved conditions in compliance with the Environmental Protection Act. Advice on the preferred method should be obtained from the local authority waste disposal officer.

TRANSPORT INFORMATION

No special precautions required.

REGULATORY INFORMATION

Classified as non-hazardous for conveyance and supply.

OTHER INFORMATION

In accordance with the Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations, employers must carry out a risk assessment to ensure the health and safety of their employees and non-employees who may be affected by their undertaking.

NATIONAL LEGISLATION

Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations, Construction (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations, Manual Handling Operations Regulations, HSE Guidance Note EH40 (Workplace Exposure Limits), HSE Guidance Note EH44 (Dust – General Principles of Protection), HS(G)33 Health and Safety in Roof Work and The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations.

For further information contact our Marketing Department at:

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