

Pre-Cast Concrete Products

Material Safety Datasheet: DQ12 Issue 01/09



Glendinning

It is important that you or those working for you familiarise themselves with the information supplied on this Datasheet before handling, using or disposing of the product.

Identification of Substance & Company

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Product: Pre-Cast Concrete Products

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Physical and Chemical Characteristics

Pre-cast Concrete Products, Blocks (concrete masonry units) and Blockettes are manufactured by compacting a mixture of aggregate, cement and water into a mould to produce the required shape and strength. They are odourless and solid.

Admixtures may be added to improve production techniques or the properties of the finished product.

Pigments may be added to colour the product as required.

Hazards

- Hardened concrete is inert, but edges and surfaces can be sharp and abrasive.
- The surface treatment and cutting of hardened concrete can create dust which may contain quartz. If inhaled in excessive quantities over extended periods, respirable dust containing quartz can constitute a long term health hazard and may cause the development of silicosis or lung cancer.
- Any cutting of finishing may result in particles or sections of the concrete surface being projected at high speed.
- Consideration should be given to the mass of some of the larger units before manual handling.

Emergency Action – First Aid

Eye Contact

1. On contact with concrete dust irrigate immediately with copious amounts of clean water. Seek immediate medical attention.

Skin Contact

1. On contact with concrete dust immediately wash with copious amounts of clean water and soap. Clothing contaminated by concrete dust should be removed and washed thoroughly before use. If irritation occurs seek medical attention.

Inhalation

1. If concrete dust is inhaled move the affected person into fresh air. If breathing problems persist seek medical attention.

Ingestion

1. If ingestion of concrete dust occurs and causes irritation seek medical attention.

Precautions

The following precautions should always be taken:

- Avoid dry-cutting concrete wherever possible, using a lubricant such as water will minimise emission of dust. Inhalation of concrete dust should be avoided. Wear suitable eye protection.
- Employ good manual handling techniques wherever possible and use of mechanical lifting aids should be considered where reasonably practicable for products with masses in excess of 20kg.

Protective Clothing

Protective clothing, particularly on hands and feet, should be worn when handling concrete blocks and bricks eg industrial gloves, safety boots.

Respiratory protective equipment and eye protection should be worn during the surface treatment or cutting of Blocks and Blockettes.

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Transportation and Waste Disposal

The carriage of Pre-Cast Concrete Products, Blocks and Blockettes is not subject to hazardous substance conveyance regulations and vehicle labelling is not required.

Unused hardened concrete or screeds are inert but should be disposed of in accordance with local authority requirements. Keep out of the reach of children.

Storage

Care should be taken in the stacking and general handling of individual units or packs of units, taking into account the mass of the products, stability of the packs and the level of the site.

Guidance

- EH40 – For detailed guidance on workplace exposure levels to constituent substances reference should be made to EH40 (HSE Guidance Note)

Notes

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