

READY-MIXED MORTAR & SCREED

Material Safety Datasheet

It is important that you, or any persons working for you or to whom you have supplied ready-mixed mortar or screed, become familiar with the information given in the pages of this datasheet before handling, using or disposing of the product(s).

Hazard information

Composition/information on ingredients

| Mortar | Screed |
|--|---|
| Mixture of natural aggregates, cement and water. Admixtures, hydrated lime and/or pigments may be added. | Mixture of natural aggregates, cement and water. Admixtures, hydrated lime and/or pigment may be added. |

Chemical description:

The principal constituents of cement are;
*calcium silicates * aluminates * sulphates.
Small amounts of alkalis, lime and chlorides are also present.
Whilst reducing agents are added to comply with the regulatory limit for Chromium (VI) their effect decreases with time and hexavalent chromium salts may be present, which give rise to a potentially hazardous solution when mixed with water.
Additional constituents may also be present e.g. fly ash, limestone, clay and granulated blast furnace slag along with other minor chemical additives. The natural aggregates in concrete contain a combination of various minerals, including silica.

Hazardous ingredients:

| | |
|---|---|
| Lime, calcium silicates and alkalis within cement | These are partially soluble and when mixed with water will give rise to a potentially hazardous alkaline solution. |
| Hexavalent Chromium Salts within cement | Soluble when mixed with water, this will give rise to a potentially hazardous solution. |
| Salts of organic acid within the air entraining agents | These are soluble and when mixed with water will contribute to the alkalinity of the solution. |
| Airborne dust from the natural aggregates in dry concrete mixes | These may contain respirable silica. Long term exposure to high levels of respirable crystalline silica, which can arise from a failure to implement adequate control measures, can lead to silicosis and ultimately an increased risk of developing lung cancer. |

Hazards identification

Wet concrete, mortar and screed are strong alkalis. If this comes into contact with the eyes or skin it may cause serious burns and ulceration. The eyes are particularly vulnerable and damage will increase with contact time.

Strong alkaline solutions in contact with the skin tend to damage the nerve endings first before damaging the skin, therefore chemical burns can develop without pain being felt at the time.

Concrete, mortar and screed mixes may until set cause both irritant and allergic contact dermatitis:

Irritant contact dermatitis is due to a combination of the wetness, alkalinity and abrasiveness of the constituent materials.

Allergic contact dermatitis is caused mainly by the sensitivity of an individual's skin to hexavalent chromium salts.

Concrete, mortar and screed dust:

Inhalation of silica particles in dust created by dry-mix bagged products, cutting set concrete or surface treatment of hardened concrete containing high silica aggregates may cause respiratory damage. Long-term prolonged exposure to high levels of respirable crystalline silica, which can arise from a failure to implement adequate control measures or wear the correct respiratory protection, can lead to silicosis and ultimately an increased risk of developing lung cancer.

Emergency action

First aid measures

Wet mortar & screed:

| EYE CONTACT | SKIN CONTACT | INGESTION |
|---|--|---|
| Irrigate immediately with copious amounts of clean water. Seek immediate medical attention. | Immediately wash with copious amounts of clean water. Clothing contaminated by wet cement, concrete or mortar should be removed and washed thoroughly before use. | Wash out mouth and drink plenty of water. Do not induce vomiting. Seek medical advice if large amount is swallowed. |

Mortar and Screed dust:

| EYE CONTACT | INGESTION | INHILATION |
|--|--|--|
| Irrigate immediately with copious amounts of clean water. Seek immediate medical attention. | Do not induce vomiting. Wash out mouth with water and give patient plenty of water to drink. | If irritation occurs, move to fresh air. If nose or airways become inflamed seek medical advice. |

Risk Phrases:

May cause sensitisation by skin contact.

Risk of serious damage to eyes.

Contact with wet mortar or screed may cause irritation, dermatitis or burns

Contact between cement powder and bodily fluids (e.g. sweat and eye fluid) may also cause skin and respiratory irritation, dermatitis or burns.

Contains Chromium (VI) which may cause allergic reaction.

Safety Phrases:

Avoid eye and skin contact by wearing suitable eye protection, clothing and gloves

Avoid breathing dust

Keep out of reach of children

On contact with eyes or skin, rinse immediately with plenty of clean water. Seek medical advice after eye contact.

Personal Protective Equipment

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Personal Protective Equipment: | Respiratory Protection: Suitable respiratory protection (HSE approved standard) should be worn to ensure that personal exposure is less than the workplace exposure limit values. |
| Hand and Skin Protection: | Protective clothing should be worn which ensures that mortar or screed, does not come into contact with the skin. Particular care should be taken to ensure that wet mortar or screed does not enter the boots and persons do not kneel on the wet mortar or screed so as to bring the wet product into contact with unprotected skin. Should wet mortar or screed get inside boots, gloves or other protective clothing then this protective clothing should be immediately removed and the skin thoroughly washed as well as the protective clothing/footwear. |

Transport information

Not hazardous. Classification for conveyance – not required

HSE Guidance

Construction information sheet No 26 (revision 2) available from

HSE Books PO Box 1999 Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 2WA

Manual Handling

A suitable and sufficient risk assessment should be carried out before any manual handling is undertaken. Please ensure suitable lifting equipment and manual handling techniques are used at all times

For further information please contact our sales department on **0845 0667 827**