



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.

## **I. Identification of the substance/preparation and of the company/undertaking**

### **Product details**

Autoclaved Fibre Cement Products are either smooth or textured rigid rectangular products with factory applied surface coatings in a number of colours or as a naturally coloured product..

**Application of the Product** Roofing/Cladding

### **Manufacturer/Supplier:**

Etex (Exteriors) UK

Wellington Road

Burton on Trent

Staffordshire

DE14 2AP

Tel: 01283 501505

## **2 Composition/information on ingredients**

**Description:** Manufactured from Portland Cement, sand and water with natural and synthetic fibres and fillers, either fully or semi-compressed. If through coloured they will contain pigments. If surface coated, the coating will generally be a water based acrylic resin with pigments.

## **3 Hazards identification**

**Hazard description:** Due to the presence of crystalline silica in the raw material used in the manufacture of these products, machining may lead to the release of quartz dust. Undisturbed, this product does not pose a health hazard with all the ingredients bonded in the cement matrix. Inhalation of quartz from occupational sources can cause silicosis and lung cancer. International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) Monographs 1997,. "Crystalline silica inhaled in the form of quartz and cristobalite from occupational sources is carcinogenic to humans" (Group 1).

## 4 First-aid measures

**Damage to skin:** Wash with water and apply sterile dressing.

**Dust in mouth or eyes:** Irrigate liberally with water. If irritation or discomfort persists, seek medical advice.

**Ingestion:** Give plenty to drink.

**Inhalation:** Remove to fresh air

## 5 Fire-fighting measures

### **Suitable extinguishing agents:**

Fibre cement products are non-combustible or class “0” and compatible with all standard fire-fighting measures. However, the painted surfaces of concrete products 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.

## 6 Accidental release measures

**Procedure for Spill/Leak:** Collect dust with vacuum cleaner or soak with water and sweep up.

## 7 Handling and storage

**Information for safe handling:** Off-loading of heavy loads should be carried out with care to avoid unnecessary strain on the handlers and accidental damage to the product. 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.

Products should not be allowed to become wet in storage. If product is stored outside, the polythene hood should be removed and the product 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. Equitone panels and cladding boards should be stored as near as possible to the area where they are to be used, away from road works and vehicular traffic. They should be stored horizontally on level firm ground with sheets on timber bearers.

## 8 Exposure controls/personal protection

**8.1 Safety recommendations when handling or machining these products:** The use of angle grinders is not recommended.

**Equitone Cladding Panels** should be precut and drilled by specialist distributors, a list of whom can be supplied on request.

**Building Boards** can be cut with any jigsaw or circular saw. Products must be fully supported when cutting. The use of either a diamond or a tungsten carbide tipped blade is recommended for maximum performance. Please contact the Technical Advisory Service for further information.

After cutting or drilling, remove all dust from coloured materials to avoid subsequent staining.

### 8.2 Workplace Exposure Limits (WEL) EH40/2005

Workplace exposure limits:

Dust - 8hf T.W.A.

10mg/m<sup>3</sup> total inhalable dust

4mg/m<sup>3</sup> total respirable dust

Crystalline Silica - 8hr T.W.A.

0.3mg/m<sup>3</sup> respirable silica

### 8.3 Personal Protective Equipment

**Goggles** – Persons employed in machine cutting, drilling & fixing should wear protective goggles (CE approved to BS2092).

**Gloves** – Should be worn for protection against cuts and abrasions.

**Ventilation** – Dust should be controlled by local exhaust ventilation at source.

**Other** – Normal protective working overalls.

## 9 Physical and chemical properties

	Average Bending Strength N/mm <sup>2</sup>	Average Density Kg/m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Equitone</b>		
Tectiva	22	1580
<b>Façade Panels</b>		
Cedral Board	17	1230
Cedral Lap	11	1300
Cedral Click	11	1300

Odour	None
Reaction to Fire	Fire – Fibre cement products are class “0” to the building regulations and A2-s1-d0 to En 13501-1

## **10 Stability and reactivity**

They are chemically inert and resistant to the majority of fumes, weak acids and alkalis. In the case of aggressive environments, the advice of Etex (Exteriors) UK Ltd Technical Advisory Services should be sought.

## **11 Toxicological information**

**Inhalation:** Acute over-exposure to dust may cause irritation of the respiratory tract..

**Skin Contact:** Prolonged or repeated contact may cause mild irritation.

**Skin Absorption:** No known hazards.

**Ingestion:** Mild discomfort

**Eyes:** Mild transient irritation. No specific hazard.

### **11.1 Chronic Effects**

Silicosis, a form of fibrosis of the lungs, may arise from the inhalation of silica.

## **12 Ecological information**

Fibre cement products will not degrade in the ground.

## **13 Disposal considerations**

The waste product is a non hazardous industrial waste product and is not regarded as hazardous waste under the Hazardous Waste (England & Wales) Regulations 2005.

Treat any collective dust in a way that prevents further exposure.

## **14 Transport information**

**General notes:** No special precautions required.

## **15 Regulatory information**

**General notes:** Classified as non-hazardous for conveyance and supply.

## **I6 Other information**

**General notes:** 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 when using these products.

**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), HSE Guidance Note EH59/2 (Respiratory Crystalline Silica). HSE - Chemical Hazard Alert Notice (CHAN) 35 Respirable Crystalline Silica