

Health and Safety Concrete and Mortar

Handy Concrete (Cumbria) Ltd

1. Identification of substance

Concrete
Mortar

Company

Handy Concrete (Cumbria) Ltd
Pitwood Road
Lillyhall
Workington
Cumbria
CA14 4JP

Tel 01900 606646

2. Composition

Concrete is a mixture of natural aggregates, lightweight aggregates which may include Lytag, Leca, Pelite, blast furnace slag and cementitious material including cement, pulverised fuel ash (PFA) and water. Admixtures may be added.
Mortar is a mixture of sand, cement and water. Admixtures may be added to improve product handling characteristics or the properties of the hardened mortar. Pigments may be added to colour the product to customer requirements. The resultant mixture is abrasive and alkaline.

3. Hazards identification

Wet concrete and mortar

Contact with wet concrete and mortar can cause:-

- 1) Irritant contact dermatitis
- 2) Allergic contact dermatitis
- 3) Cement burns

Concrete and mortar dust

Cutting and surface treatment of hardened concrete and mortar can create dust and flying fragments.

The dust created could contain particles of a respirable size which may contain silica.

When the respirable dust contains silica, the risks are increased. Extended periods of exposure to high concentrations of such dust can be hazardous to health.

4. First aid measures

Wet concrete and mortar

Skin contact: immediately wash with copious amounts of water.

Remove contaminated clothing. Seek medical attention.

Eye contact: immediately irrigate with copious amounts of water. Seek medical attention.

Ingestion: remove from exposure to fresh air. Seek medical attention.

Concrete and mortar dust

Inhalation: remove from exposure to fresh air.

Skin contact: wash with water.

Eye contact: immediately irrigate with copious amounts of water. Seek medical attention.

Ingestion: remove from exposure to fresh air.

5. Fire fighting measures

None needed.

6. Accidental release measures

Personal protection

Avoid skin and eye contact. Wear protective equipment as specified in section eight –

Exposure controls/personal protection.

Environmental measures

Prevent entry into drains and water courses.

Methods of cleaning

To avoid hardening, recover as quickly as possible in the wet or semi-dry state using suction system or mechanical loading shovel.

Water spray to avoid the creation of airborne dust. Avoid skin contact.

7. Handling and storage

Wet concrete and mortar

Avoid skin and eye contact.

Concrete and mortar dust

Cutting and surface treatment of hardened concrete and mortar should be worked to minimise the creation of airborne dust.

Engineering control measures such as containment and local exhaust ventilation should be applied when airborne dust exposure levels are approached.

8. Exposure controls/personal protection

Engineering control measures: as per section seven,

Concrete and mortar dust personal protection:

Respiratory protection: to HSE approved standard.

Hand protection: abrasive resistant gloves.

Eye protection: to HSE approved standard for dust goggles.

Skin protection: overalls.

Wet concrete and mortar personal protection:

Hand protection: impervious gloves. Eye protection: to HSE approved standard. Skin protection: long sleeve clothing with full length trousers and impervious boots.

9. Physical and chemical properties

An odourless mixture of sand, cementitious materials and water in a semi solid state pH 12.

10. Stability and reactivity

Not applicable.

11. Toxicological information**Health effects of wet concrete and mortar**

Eyes: may cause irritation and in severe cases alkali burns. **Skin:** short term contact may cause alkali burns. Prolonged contact may cause both irritant and contact dermatitis.

Concrete and mortar dust

On eyes: may cause transient irritation. **On skin:** unlikely to cause harm on brief or occasional contact. **By inhalation:** inhalation of large quantities of respirable silica may lead to progressive lung damage. This may cause permanent disability and, in extreme cases, may be fatal.

By ingestion: unlikely to cause harm. **Chronic:** exposure to high levels of silica may cause progressive silicosis. **Others:** none known.

12. Ecological information**Environmental assessment:**

When used and disposed of as intended, no adverse environmental effects are foreseen.

13. Disposal considerations

Is not classified as hazardous for disposal purposes. Subject to local authority disposal requirements.

14. Transport information

Classification for conveyance not required.

15. Regulatory information**Hazard label data:**

This product is NOT classified as dangerous for supply in the UK.

Statutory instruments:

Health & Safety at Work, etc. Act 1974 Consumer Protection Act 1987 Environmental Protection Act 1990 COSHH 1994

Guidance notes:

Occupational Exposure Limits (EH40) Local Exhaust Ventilation (HS(G)37) Crystalline Silica (EH59) Control of Respirable Silica in Quarries (HS(G)73) Dust, General Principles of Protection (EH44) Waste Management – The Duty of Care The above publications are available from HMSO or HSE.

16. Other information

The data and advice given above apply when the substance is used as intended. Use of the substance for other applications may give rise to risks not mentioned. The information contained within this safety data sheet does not constitute the user's own assessment of risk as required by other health and safety legislation, i.e. COSHH 1994, MHSWR 1999.

If you have purchased the product for supply to a third party for use at work, it is your duty to take all necessary steps to secure that any person handling or using the product is provided with the information in this sheet.

If you are an employer, it is your duty to tell your employees and others who may be affected of any hazards described in this sheet and of any precautions which should be taken.