

# MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

## BUILDING PRODUCTS: CONCRETE MASONRY BLOCKS, PAVERS, RETAINING WALLS

These substances are classified as Hazardous according to criteria of Worksafe Australia.

### IDENTIFICATION

Product Name:	Concrete Masonry Blocks, Pavers, Retaining Walls and Caps.
Other Names:	Grey Blocks, Concrete Pavers, Link Wall.
Manufacturer's Code:	Not Applicable
UN Number:	None Allocated
Dangerous Goods Class and Subsidiary Risk:	Not Dangerous Goods
Hazchem Code:	None Allocated
Poisons Schedule:	Not Scheduled
Use:	Building products used in Civil Engineering, Building and Landscaping Applications.

### PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION / PROPERTIES

Appearance:	Various types of concrete building products in a wide range of colours, textures, shapes and sizes.
Melting Point:	Not Applicable
Vapour Pressure:	Not Applicable
Specific Gravity:	Variable
Flash Point:	Not Flammable
Flammability Limits:	Not Flammable
Solubility in Water:	Insoluble
Other Properties:	Not Applicable

### INGREDIENTS:

CHEMICAL NAME	CAS NUMBER	PROPORTION
Crystalline Silica (α Quartz)	14808-60-7	0.1 to 75%
Other ingredients determined not to be hazardous:		50% to 100%

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## HEALTH HAZARD INFORMATION

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### HEALTH EFFECTS:

The physical form in which concrete products are supplied, pose little or no risk to human health. However, risks to human health may arise when the products are reworked liberating dust (which includes a hazardous substance, crystalline silica) in a form which is respirable.

### ACUTE EFFECTS:

*Swallowed:*

Unlikely to be a route of exposure.

*Eyes:*

Physical nature may cause transient irritation due to abrasive effects.

*Skin:*

Unlikely to cause significant effects.

*Inhaled:*

If product is in an inhalable or respirable form, acute exposure may result in irritation to respiratory tract. If exposure is very large, then acute silicosis may occur. Acute silicosis is characterised by progressively laboured breathing.

### CHRONIC EFFECTS:

Chronic inhalation of crystalline silica may result in serious adverse health effects, particularly if the crystalline silica is of respirable size (approximately < 7 µm aerodynamic diameter). Chronic exposure to crystalline silica in humans is associated with impairment of lung function. Reduced lung function may occur as a result of an increase in fibrotic tissue (silicosis), atrophy of gas exchange surfaces (emphysema) or airway obstruction (bronchiolitis).

Crystalline silica has been shown to induce lung cancer in laboratory animals and there is limited evidence that it may cause lung cancer in humans. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has classified crystalline silica as a probable human carcinogen (2A).

### FIRST AID:

*Eyes:*

If in eyes, wash with water for 15 minutes. If irritation persists, see doctor.

*Inhaled:*

If discomfort or irritation occurs, remove to fresh air.

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## PRECAUTIONS FOR USE

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**Exposure Limits:** Worksafe Australia has endorsed an Exposure Standard, Time Weighted Average (TWA), of 0.1mg/m<sup>3</sup> for Crystalline Silica. However, where a State or Local Authority prescribes a standard lower than 0.1 mg/m<sup>3</sup>, the lower standard applies.

**Engineering Controls:** Generating dusts from this product should be avoided. Where possible dampen materials before re-working. If dust generation is unavoidable, local exhaust ventilation or good natural ventilation should be employed. It is recommended that this product is wet sawn and drilled. Accumulated dust should be dry vacuumed or wetted and swept up. Wear suitable protective equipment for the eyes, skin and respiratory system.

**Personal Protection:**

*Inhalation:* As appropriate particulate (dust) respirator should be used where dust may be generated. Respiratory protection should comply with AS/NZS1716 (1994) Respiratory Devices.

*Eyes:* Eye goggles should be worn as a general precaution if dust is likely to enter the eyes.

*Hands:* Gloves should be worn as a general precaution when handling cured product.

*Flammability:* Not flammable.

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## SAFE HANDLING INFORMATION

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**Storage and Transport:** No special requirements.

**Spills and Disposal:** If material is spilled, vacuum, or wet sweep area, and where possible, reuse. Waste material should be bagged / wrapped and disposed in a manner which avoids generating dust.

**OTHER INFORMATION:**

**CONTACT POINT:** Occupational Health and Safety Manager or Site Manager. For further information contact your nearest Austral Masonry Office.



## NSW

### Coffs Harbour

27 Lawson Street,

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### Prospect

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### Gympie

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### Yatala

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## VIC

### Dandenong

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