

SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS FOR WORKING WITH CERAMIC TILES

Tiles are made from raw materials of mineral origin (clay mostly) that have been mixed with water, dried, shaped and fired in kilns at a high temperature. Some have a layer of glaze on one surface that has also been fired along with the base. **Tiles are used as a construction material to clad the surface of facades, walls and floors.**

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The information provided in this leaflet is based on our current knowledge at the date indicated, refers exclusively to the product stated and does not constitute a guarantee as to the specific properties of the product. It is the user's responsibility to use the product in accordance with the recommendations and advice provided.

1. DANGERS

Intact ceramic tiles are not known to have any adverse effects on health or the environment.

Contraindicated uses: Do not mechanically process the dry material, avoid dust generation.

Dust can be produced during some handling processes (cutting, rectifying, disposal etc.) that, because of its abrasive effect, can irritate parts of the body exposed to it.

These products contain different amounts of crystalline silica. Processing them incorrectly or without adopting the appropriate security measures can generate the emission of dust particles that remain suspended in the air, including respirable crystalline silica (RCS). Inhalation of this fraction of silica can cause serious illness. Exposure to respirable crystalline silica is also a risk factor for developing lung cancer. Operate in accordance with current local or national provisions.

The European Directive 2004/37/EC was modified by the European Directive 2017/2398 dated 12/27/2017 regarding the protection of workers against the risks related to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens during work include in its Annex I the "work involving exposure to respirable crystalline silica dust generated in a work process".

The amount of SCR contained in the dust that can be released by the tiles during handling is variable. A preliminary study in a grinding process shows a percentage of respirable crystalline silica of less than 1% in the waste generated.

2. FIRST AID

No special measures are required for the finished material, but for processing, which are indicated below:



Dust inhalation:

Do not inhale the dust generated from the processing of the material. In case of symptoms of intoxication, move the affected person to the open air.

Seek medical attention if symptoms worsen or persist.



Contact with the eyes:

Open the eyes and wash with plenty of clean water.



Ingestion of dust:

This is unlikely to occur. The product is not toxic by ingestion nor is it retained in the intestinal tract.



Contact with the skin:

Wash with soap and water.

If the skin is apped, proceed in accordance with the seriousness of the cut.

3. STORAGE

No special conditions are required for the safe storage of ceramic tiles, nor are they incompatible with other products or materials. They have a very long useful life as they do not degrade easily.

4. DISPOSAL

Waste from ceramic tiles is classified as inert material so can be disposed of at a dump authorised for the purpose in accordance with applicable regulations.

Operate in accordance with current local or national provisions.

5. TRANSPORTATION

Ceramic tiles are rated as non-hazardous merchandise by international land, sea and air transportation classifications.

6. SAFE HANDLING

The measures described refer to processes that involve the creating of dust and/or breaking the tiles, such as cutting, rectification, polishing or drilling.

GENERAL MEASURES

Ensure the workspace is well ventilated. Avoid creating and dispersing dust. Wet working methods and practices that avoid or reduce the production of dust are recommended. Where it is not possible to avoid producing dust a localised extraction system should be put in place, or the material should be handled in a closed system. Collect the dust produced regularly using suction mechanisms or wet cleaning methods.

PERSONAL PROTECTION

While handling ceramic tiles.

Wear gloves to avoid possible cuts and scratches. Wear safety shoes/boots to avoid the feet being hurt should a tile or tiles fall on them.

During processes that generate dust.

Respiratory protection with P3 filters, glasses and suitable clothing to prevent exposure to it.

FIRE PREVENTION

Ceramic tiles are not combustible.

Observe standard fire protection provisions.

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

Purify any spillages and emissions taking account of applicable maximum values.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Occupational exposure limit values proposed in Spain by the National Institute of safety and hygiene at work (INSHT)

<http://bdlep.inssbt.es/LEP/>

Occupational exposure limit values proposed in USA, collected by Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

<https://www.osha.gov/dsg/annotated-pels/tablez-1.html>

Guide to safety and occupational risk prevention for professional floor and Wall tile installers. Source: PROALSO (Association of Professional Floor and Wall Tile Installers)

http://www.proalso.es/images/pdf/M7%20PRL_web.pdf

Good practise guide on workers health protection through the good handling and use of crystalline silica and products containing it.

Source: NEPSI (The European Network on Silica)

<http://www.nepsi.eu/good-practice-guide>

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The information detailed here is based on our knowledge up to the date indicated above.

It refers exclusively to the indicated product and does not constitute a guarantee of particular qualities.

The user must ensure the suitability and accuracy of such information in relation to the use specific thing to do about the product.

This card cancels and replaces all previous editions.