

**HEALTH AND SAFETY PRODUCT DATA SHEET  
NON-AUTOCLAVED FIBRE CEMENT PRODUCTS**TECHNICAL  
NOTE:  
COSHH

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.

**1 Identification of the substance/preparation and of the company/undertaking****Product details**

Fibre Cement Slates/Sheets are either smooth or textured rigid rectangular products with through pigmentation and factory applied surface coatings in a number of colours.

**Application of the Product *Roofing/Cladding*****Manufacturer/Supplier:**

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**2 Composition/information on ingredients**

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

### 3 Hazards identification

**Hazard description:** If machined mechanically, fibre cement slates/sheets will release dust. Inhalation of high concentrations of dust may irritate the airways. Dust may also cause irritation of the eyes and/or skin. Profiled sheets may be reinforced with polypropylene strips to improve their impact resistance. No fibre cement product should be walked on, as this will affect its long-term durability, crawling boards must be used.

### 4 First-aid measures

**General information:** There are no specific requirements when using fibre cement other than the appropriate treatment of minor injuries.

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

**Dust in mouth or eyes:** Irrigate liberally with water.

**Accidents:** Where products strike or crush parts of the body, refer to a suitably qualified medical practitioner. In all cases of doubt or where symptoms persist, medical advice should be obtained.

### 5 Fire-fighting measures

**Suitable extinguishing agents:**

Fibre cement slates/sheets will not support combustion. However, the painted surface will burn if heated fiercely but will extinguish on removal of the ignition source. No special firefighting procedures or extinguishing medias 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

Collect dust with vacuum cleaner or soak with water and sweep up.

### 7 Handling and storage

**Handling:****Information for safe handling:**

Personal injury due to strains and ruptures should be avoided if the requirements of The Manual Handling Operations Regulations are implemented.

Cedral fibre cement slates: Pallets and crates should be transported using appropriate lifting machine such as a fork lift. Unload and handle slates and fittings with care to avoid damage, soiling or breakage.

Where plastic banding is used to contain products, the bands are under tension and may fly when cut. Caution should be taken when cutting these straps to prevent any damage.

To prevent injury from falling product, each end of the pack should be supported prior to the cutting of the plastic banding. Packs should not be lifted by polythene or plastic banding alone, but by correctly positioned handling forks.

Eternit fibre cement profiled sheeting: When unloading the sheets or fittings, do not push or pull, we recommend taking the products from the edge and for the sheets to be carried on their side. When loading products by a crane, we do not recommend the use of loading ropes.

Equitone: Always lift panels off each other, never slide them over one another as scratching may occur. To carry the panels, stand them on their back edge and lift with a minimum of two people (one person at each end) protecting the face from scratching or damage. Always lean panel towards back edge to avoid damaging visible front edge. Using soft bearers can help to rest the panel edge on. Use clean textile gloves when handling the panels to help prevent staining.

DO NOT stand or walk on the panels as dirty work boots could potentially scratch or stain the panels. Interleave- protective paper-foil EQUITONE [natura], [pictura] and [textura] panels are supplied with an interleaving between the decorated faces to protect the coating and the panel from surface scratching. The interleave protection should not be removed. Stack the panels front face to front face or rear surface to rear surface. The panels should not be placed face to back.

If for any reason the panels need to be moved, either to be restacked or for cutting the interleaving MUST be replaced and the panels must be restacked as above. Failure to replace the interleaving could result in the panel faces sticking together, leaving both panels with irreparable damage and the panels will need to be replaced.

**Storage:**

Cedral fibre cement slates: should be stored in a safe location and MUST be kept from damage on site. Pallets MUST be stored on a smooth, level base capable of supporting their weight. Slates must not be allowed to become wet when in packs or banded together, as efflorescence and staining can occur.

Storage inside a building or similar shelter: the polythene hoods covering the slates should remain as a temporary protection to the slates, provided no water vapor can enter from below the packs.

Storage outside: remove the polythene hoods and stack the slates in bundles off the ground and cover with a good tarpaulin allowing clearance between the tarpaulin and the slates. This will allow free air movement and help prevent condensation forming within the pack (which could cause efflorescence).

If the slates are to be stored outside for a very short period of time, then the sides of the hood should be split open before covering with a tarpaulin to reduce the risk of condensation in the packs.

On larger contracts, it is better to avoid storing too many packs on site and to schedule deliveries of slates as they are required.

Do not stack slates more than 2 pallets high in stockyards or on site.

**Eternit fibre cement profiled sheeting:** Profiled Sheets should be stored as close as practically possible to the area of works, on a firm level base, using the profiled bearers (on which the sheets are delivered) to raise the sheets off the ground. Sheeting stacks should generally not exceed 1200mm high unless a level concrete base is available, in which case the maximum height is 1500mm. (UrbanPro – do not load the products on more than two pallets.) A separate stack should be made of each length of sheet; if this is not possible, stack with longest sheets at the bottom and the shortest at the top. It is important when stacking Profile 6 sheets on site that the smaller 'under rolls' are all on the same side of the stack. Sheets should always be stored weather (smooth) side upwards. Stacks of sheets should not be stored in full sun during the summer months as the differential temperature across the sheets can result in unacceptable stresses in the sheets and can lead to edge cracking.

**Natural Grey sheets:** The plastic wrapping should be retained for as long as possible to control the environment around the sheets. Once the pack has been opened, or if the wrapping is damaged and allowing the ingress of water, the sheets should be stored under cover.

**Coloured sheets:** Coloured sheets should be stored under cover at all times, preferably inside a building, but if this is not available they can be stored under a tarpaulin. The tarpaulin should be spaced off the top and sides of the sheets to allow effective air circulation and avoid condensation.

The plastic wrapping on coloured sheets is only designed to protect the sheets in transit. It should be removed and carefully disposed of as soon as possible.

**Equitone** - All panel materials must be stored flat on pallets, inside and undercover in dry conditions,

protected from weather and other trades. Stack the pallets in a way so that the panels are ventilated. If moisture is allowed to penetrate between the stored sheets surface staining in the form of efflorescence may occur. Condensation within the packaging can be an issue when the conditions are warm. The outer plastic protection may cause condensation if it is not removed or fully ventilated.

Do not deliver any panels to site which cannot be installed immediately or unloaded into a suitable well protected, dry storage area. Store the panels clear of the ground and on level bearers at a maximum of 600mm centres. Individual stacks can be 500mm high, and not more than five stacks can be put on top of one another. EQUITONE [natura], [pictura] and [textura] panels are supplied with protective paper or foil between the decorated faces. This protection should not be removed. Stack the panels front face-to-front face or rear surface-to-rear surface. The panels should not be placed face-to-back.

**8 Exposure controls/personal protection**

Fibre cement products may have edges that are sharp or abrasive, therefore suitable gloves should be worn when handling. When handling wet tiles, impervious PVC or Nitrile gloves should be worn. Other suitable personal protective equipment should also be worn to prevent contact with the wet tile surface, which may become alkali.

As a general rule try to eliminate the exposure to dust. Work in a well-ventilated area. Use dust suppression techniques where practicable. The use of angle grinders is not recommended and products can be cut by scribing and breaking over a straight edge or by using a normal hand saw with teeth of 3- 3.5mm pitch preferably wide set. Collect dust with a vacuum cleaner, hose down or wet sweep work areas. Goggles (CE approved to BS2092) should be worn during cutting/drilling operations.

An approved respirator must be worn to prevent the inhalation of dust when other measures fail to adequately control the dust produced during the mechanical machining of the products.

**Workplace Exposure Limit**

Dust – 8 hr T.W.A.

10 mgm<sup>3</sup> (total inhalable dust)

4 mgm<sup>3</sup> (total respirable dust)

**9 Physical and chemical properties**

**General Information:**

Fibre cement slates/sheets are inert and solid when supplied. The cement is predominately made up of calcium silicate and calcium aluminate. The pigments used in production are mainly iron oxide, although other oxides may be present in varying quantities. Naturally occurring mineral fillers along with natural and synthetic fibres are bound into the cement matrix

**Profiled Sheets** Have a nominal density of 1450kg/m<sup>3</sup>. The minimum breaking load of the Profiles when tested to BS EN 494 are listed below:

<i>Profile 3</i>	<i>1400 N/m</i>
<i>Profile 6</i>	<i>4250 N/m</i>
<i>Urban Pro</i>	<i>2500 N/m</i>

<b>High Performance Cladding Panels</b>	<b>Average Bending Strength (N/mm)</b>	<b>Average Density (kg/m<sup>3</sup>)</b>
<i>Natura Pro</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>1650</i>
<i>Natura Plus</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>1650</i>
<i>Textura</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>1650</i>
<i>Pictura</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>1650</i>

**Rivendale and Birkdale  
Fibre Cement Slates**

	Bending Moment (Nm/m)	Minimum Density (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )
$h \leq 350\text{mm}$		1700
$350\text{mm} < h \leq 450\text{mm}$	30	1700
$450\text{mm} < h \leq 600\text{mm}$	40	1700
	45	

**Thrutone Smooth and  
Textured Fibre Cement  
Slates**

	Bending Moment (Nm/m)	Minimum Density (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )
$350\text{mm} \leq h \leq 600\text{mm}$	$\geq 45$	1700

**10 Stability and reactivity**

Materials are unaffected by general levels of atmospheric pollution. If the slates are to be exposed to aggressive environments, the advice of our Technical Dept. 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.

**Additional toxicological information:** The product is not subject to classification according to the calculation method of the General EU Classification Guidelines.

**12 Ecological information**

**General notes:** Fibre cement products will not degrade in the ground

### 13 Disposal considerations

**General notes:** Redundant product and packaging should be recycled where this facility exists or disposed of by a registered carrier to an approved landfill site. Waste polythene can be incinerated under approved conditions in compliance with the Environmental Protection Act. Advice on the preferred method should be obtained from the local authority waste disposal officer.

### 14 Transport information

**General notes:** No special precautions required

### 15 Regulatory information

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

### 16 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.

**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), HS(G)33 Health and Safety in Roof Work and The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations

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