

HEALTH AND SAFETY COSHH SHEET

Precast Concrete Blocks

- PRODUCT CHARACTERISTIC:** Compacted, moulded mixture of cement, aggregate, water, and pigment colours as required.
- KNOWN HAZARDS:** Concrete blocks can have sharp/ abrasive edges and/or surfaces. Machine cutting or surface treatment of concrete blocks can create dust which may contain quartz and/or silica. These respirable dusts, if inhaled in excessive quantities over long periods, can constitute a health hazard. Constant handling of concrete blocks without adequate protection and proper hygiene can cause skin irritation.
- PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT:** It is recommended that protective clothing be worn when handling concrete blocks e.g. industrial gloves and protective footwear. In addition respiratory protective equipment and eye protection should be worn during machine cutting or surface treatment of concrete blocks.
- STORAGE AND HANDLING:** Concrete blocks should be off loaded onto a firm level surface. Care should be taken in the general handling and stacking, particularly with regard to the weight and stability of individual units or packs of units. Due consideration should be given to disposal of banding wires and plastic wrappings.

Further information on the manual handling of concrete blockwork can be found in construction sheet No 37 issued by the Health and Safety Commission.