



# HEALTH WARNING

## FIBRE CEMENT

This product contains crystalline silica which is commonly used in many construction products (for example brick, concrete, glass). The mineral itself is inert, but certain building practices, such as drilling and cutting, can release fine particulate dust which may constitute a health hazard.



Excessive or protracted inhalation of fine particle silica dust can lead to a lung disease called silicosis. There is also some evidence that it may increase the risk of lung cancer, if inhaled for prolonged periods.

It is important to take measures to control the release of dusts and minimise inhalation of dust particles. The following steps are general controls to reduce dust inhalation when handling products containing silica dust:

- Any cutting where dust will be released should be undertaken outside in a position whereby winds will take the dust away from the operative and away for any persons in the vicinity. If using power tools, use low-dust cutting blades and connect to an appropriate dust extraction system.
- If cutting cannot be undertaken outside, only carry out in a well-ventilated space in a separate area away from other persons. Using power tools to cut indoors is not recommended. Score and snap should be the preferred method.
- Using a score and snap method will produce less dust than cutting with power tools.
- To further reduce the risk of dust inhalation, wear RPE with FFP3 filters. The mask and filters should conform to relevant EN standards. Others in the vicinity should also wear appropriate RPE to protect from inhalation of dust.
- At the end of the task remove dust from clothes, tools and work areas with a HEPA filter vacuum cleaner, or dampen with water to suppress the dust before sweeping - never dry sweep dust.
- If you are working with this product as part of your employment duties follow your employer's risk assessment.