

➤ Material Safety Data Sheet: Concrete Blocks

1. APPLICATION

Concrete blocks are supplied in various shapes and sizes for general construction use, particularly for the construction of walls. Use of concrete blocks should be in accordance with the relevant National/European Standards and Codes of Practice

2. COMPOSITION

Concrete blocks are composed of hardened concrete. The concrete is a mixture of cement, natural aggregate and water. Admixtures are sometimes added to the fresh concrete to modify some properties of the fresh concrete or the finished block.

3. HAZARD IDENTIFICATION

Concrete blocks are abrasive. Weights of individual concrete blocks and of strapped layers or bales of concrete blocks are such that injury can be caused when lifting or otherwise handling them (see Clause 9 for more details on weights). Unless properly arranged and located, stacks of individual concrete blocks or of layers or bales of concrete blocks (whether loose or strapped) can be unstable and liable to collapse. Strapping is sharp and tensioned and can cause injury when removing or otherwise handling it. Cutting, drilling, hammering and other such treatment of concrete blocks can create dust. If inhaled in excessive quantities over extended periods, respirable dust can constitute a long-term health hazard. Cutting, drilling, hammering and other such treatment of concrete blocks, unless adequately controlled, can also project particles at high velocity with consequent risk of impact damage and/or injury particularly to eyes and other exposed areas of the body.

4. FIRST AID MEASURES

Eye Contact (Dust or other particles): Immediately rinse under clean running water and seek medical advice.

Cuts/Abrasions: Clean and treat cuts/abrasions using normal First-Aid methods. Wounds must receive prompt medical attention.

In all cases of doubt or where symptoms persist medical advice must be obtained.

5. FIRE FIGHTING MEASURES

Not applicable.

6. ACCIDENTAL RELEASE MEASURES

Follow the relevant instructions in Clauses 7 and 8. Take up concrete blocks and debris using appropriate equipment.

7. HANDLING & STORAGE

Observe, and where necessary keep clear of, all vehicles/equipment involved in the delivery and off-loading of concrete blocks.

- Avoid contact with skin.
- Wear protective clothing as detailed in Clause 8.
- Before lifting, always size up the load. Always follow safe lifting and manual handling procedures.
- In particular, use suitable equipment when lifting, transporting or otherwise handling layers or bales of concrete blocks (whether loose or strapped), ensuring especially that the loading capacity and clamping ability of such equipment is adequate.

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- Ensure integrity and stability of concrete blocks and of layers or bales of concrete blocks (whether loose or strapped) whilst transporting or storing them.
- Ensure adequate load-bearing capacity, levelness and rigidity of all surfaces/platforms etc. on which concrete blocks are placed or stored and ensure that any sub-structure supporting such surfaces/platforms etc. are similarly safe.
- Strapping is only designed to facilitate handling during manufacture and should not be relied upon to provide stability of layers or bales of concrete blocks during transport, site handling or storage and should never be used as a lifting aid.
- Use suitable equipment to remove strapping, having first ensured that blocks are stable and will not fall over on removal of strapping.

8. EXPOSURE CONTROLS AND PERSONAL PROTECTION

- Wear suitable protective gloves, overalls, safety helmets and safety footwear with protective toe-caps in all situations.
- Wear suitable goggles to prevent eye contact from dust and flying particles when cutting, drilling, hammering or otherwise treating concrete blocks.
- Wear suitable respiratory protection (such as dust masks) when cutting, drilling, hammering or otherwise treating concrete blocks.

9. PHYSICAL & CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

Concrete blocks with designated strengths of less than 10N/mm² are usually grey in colour. Concrete blocks with designated strengths of 10N/mm² or greater are usually lightly coloured as follows:

10N/mm ² - Red	15N/mm ² - Green
20N/mm ² - Black	30N/mm ² - Yellow

Concrete blocks are abrasive. Individual concrete blocks can weigh up to 30kg depending on dimensions and density. The typical weight of a 100mm solid block (440x215x100mm) is approximately 20kg. The typical weight of a 215mm hollow block with vertical voids (440x215x215mm) is approximately 25kg. Individual strapped layers of concrete blocks can weigh up to 0.9 tonne. The typical weight of a layer of 100mm solid blocks is approximately 0.5 tonne (24 blocks) or 0.9 tonne (44 blocks). The typical weight of a layer of 215mm hollow blocks with vertical voids is approximately 0.25 tonne (10 blocks) or 0.3 tonne (12 blocks). Details of the sizes and weights of all types of blocks and of strapped layers of blocks are available on request.

10. STABILITY & REACTIVITY

Not applicable

11. TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION

Not applicable.

12. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

Concrete blocks have no ecological effects.

13. DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS

Concrete blocks may be recycled or placed in approved licensed landfill sites.

14. TRANSPORT INFORMATION

No risk on observance of safety instructions detailed in Clauses 6, 7 and 8.

➤ Get in Touch:

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15. REGULATORY INFORMATION

Not applicable.