



**MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET**

**STATEMENT OF HAZARDOUS NATURE**

This product contains crystalline silica which is classified as a hazardous substance according to the criteria of Worksafe Australia.

**Address:** 10 Colquhoun Street  
Rosehill NSW 2142 Australia  
**Telephone:** 13 11 03

**IDENTIFICATION**

**PRODUCT NAME:**

Ceramic Tile Underlay, Classic Weatherboard, Decorweave C.P., Fiesta Ceiling sheet, Hardibrace™, Hardifence™, Hardiflex™, Hardiflex™ Covermould, Hardiflex™ Eaves Lining,, Hardiflex™ Verge Strip, Hardiform™, Hardiglaze™ Swirl, HardiPanel™ Compressed, Hardiplank™ Smooth, Hardiplank™ Woodgrain, Hardiplank™ Cross Cut, Hardiscreen™, Harditex™ Base Sheet, Mine Stopping Sheet, New Villaboard™ lining. Old style Weatherboard, PanelClad™ Sierra, PanelClad™ Stucco, PanelClad™ TextureLine, Panelock™, PineRidge™, PrimeLine™ Heritage W/b, PrimeLine™ Summit W/b, PrimeLine™ Chamferboard W/b, Rough-Cut Weatherboard, Rusticated Weatherboard, Shingled Siding, Shingled Weatherboard, Super Six™, Versilux™, Villaboard™, Vinyl and Cork Underlay, Wunderlay™ Board, ComTex™ Panel, Hardiwall™, HardieGlaza® Tile, HardieGlaza® Smooth, HadieGlaza® Premium, HardieGroove ® Sheet.

**Note:** This material safety data sheet applies only to products manufactured after 1985. Products carrying these names and manufactured before 1985 may contain asbestos. Safety information on pre 1985 products may be obtained in Australia by telephone: 1800-025-563.

**Other names:** Fibre Cement, Fibre reinforced cement.

**UN No:** None allocated  
**Dangerous Goods Class:** None allocated  
**Hazchem Code:** None allocated  
**Poisons Schedule:** None allocated

**Use:** The above products are used as internal/external wall cladding, flooring, roofing or fencing.

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION / PROPERTIES:**

**Appearance & Odour:** Solid boards or planks, through coloured grey or pink, or coated with various colours, flat or corrugated with various dimensions according to product  
**Vapour Pressure:** Not relevant      **Flash Point (Cels):** Not relevant  
**Specific Gravity:** Not relevant      **Autoignition Temp. (Cels):** Not relevant  
**Flammability:** Non-flammable      **Volatility:** Not relevant  
**Limits:**



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<b>Boiling Point:</b>	Not relevant	<b>Solubility in Water:</b>	Not relevant
<b>Melting Point:</b>	Not relevant		

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## INGREDIENTS:

Substance Name	CAS Number	Proportion
Calcium Silicate (Hydrate)	1344-95-2	10 - 60%
Crystalline Silica (Quartz)	14808-60-7	10 - 30%
Cellulose	9004-34-6	< 10%
Other non-hazardous ingredients (pigments, fillers and surface coatings)	-	< 10%

**Note:** This product does not contain asbestos or asbestiform fragments. Cellulose comes from wood pulp.

<b>HEALTH HAZARD INFORMATION</b>
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## HEALTH EFFECTS:

**Note:** The building boards in their intact state do not present a hazard. The warnings below apply to dust generated from the boards by cutting, drilling, routing, sawing or crushing.

### Acute Effects:

**Swallowed:** Unlikely under normal conditions of use, but swallowing the dust from this product may result in abdominal discomfort.

**Eye:** The dust from this product may irritate the eyes causing watering and redness.

**Skin:** The dust from this product may cause irritation of the skin from friction but is not absorbed through the skin.

**Inhaled:** The dust from this product may cause irritation of the nose, throat and lungs causing coughing and sneezing.

### Chronic Effects:

**Inhaled:** Dust containing crystalline silica, following repeated inhalation, may cause bronchitis, silicosis (scarring of the lung) and lung cancer. It may also increase the risk of scleroderma, a disease affecting the connective tissue of the skin, joints, blood vessels and internal organs. In June 1997, crystalline silica has been evaluated by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) - "*Crystalline silica inhaled in the form of quartz or cristobalite is carcinogenic to humans (Group 1)*".

Studies have shown that cigarette smoking increases the risk of silicosis, bronchitis and lung cancer in persons exposed to crystalline silica.

The following relates to health effects of cellulose: Based on limited animal research, it is possible that repeated inhalation of cellulose fibre dust over time may lead to inflammation and scarring of the lung in humans. Precautions taken for crystalline silica dust will also protect against cellulose.



**FIRST AID:**

- Swallowed:** Not expected under normal conditions of use. Give water to drink.
- Eye Contact:** Flush with running water. Seek medical attention if redness or irritation persists.
- Skin Contact:** Wash thoroughly with mild soap and water.
- Inhaled:** Remove to fresh air.
- ADVICE TO DOCTOR:** Treat symptomatically.

**PRECAUTIONS FOR USE**

**DRAFT EXPOSURE STANDARDS: WORKSAFE AUSTRALIA**

<b>Ingredients</b>	<b>Occupational Exposure Standards</b>
Crystalline Silica (Quartz)	0.2 mg/m <sup>3</sup> time-weighted average (TWA) respirable dust
Dust (NOS - not otherwise specified)	10 mg/m <sup>3</sup> time-weighted average (TWA) as inspirable dust
Calcium Silicate	10 mg/m <sup>3</sup> TWA as inspirable dust
Cellulose (paper fibre)	10 mg/m <sup>3</sup> TWA as inspirable dust

Where a state or local authority prescribes a lower standard, the lower standard applies.

**James Hardies recommendation:** Keep exposure to dust as low as practicable. Respirable crystalline silica levels should be kept below 0.1 mg/m<sup>3</sup> (TWA). and respirable dust below 5 mg/m<sup>3</sup> (TWA)

**ENGINEERING CONTROLS:**

Avoid generating dust. Wherever possible, practices likely to generate dust should be carried out in adequately ventilated areas or in process enclosures with exhaust ventilation. To avoid the creation of hazardous levels of crystalline silica dust the work practices set out below should be followed. Practices other than those recommended below **may** generate excessive levels of crystalline silica dust. Work areas should be cleaned regularly by wet sweeping or vacuuming.

The following working methods are recommended to minimise dust levels:

**Cutting non-compressed products up to 7.5mm:** Ceramic Tile Underlay, Classic Weatherboard, Decorweave C.P., Fiesta Ceiling sheet, Hardibrace™, Hardifence™, Hardiflex™, Hardiflex™ Covermould, Hardiflex™ Eaves Lining,, Hardiflex™ Verge Strip, Hardiform™, Hardiglaze™ Swirl, Hardiplank™ Smooth, Hardiplank™ Woodgrain, Hardiplank™ Cross Cut, Hardiscreen™, Harditex™ Base Sheet, Mine Stopping Sheet, New Villaboard™ lining, Old style Weatherboard, PanelClad™ Sierra, PanelClad™ Stucco, PanelClad™ TextureLine, Panelock™, PineRidge™, PrimeLine™ Heritage W/b, PrimeLine™ Summit W/b, PrimeLine™ Chamferboard W/b, Rough-Cut Weatherboard, Rusticated Weatherboard, Shingled Siding, Shingled Weatherboard,, Super Six™, Versilux™, Villaboard™, Vinyl and Cork Underlay, Wunderlay™ Board, Hardiwall™.:

- Use:** "Score and Snap" method with James Hardie's special tungsten tipped score and snap knife.
- "Kwikrip" hand guillotine using brand guillotine type 4.
- "Hardishears" power nibbler.



*Cutting non compressed products up to 12mm and Compressed products up to 6mm - Hardipanel™ Compressed Sheet, Super Six™, Villaboard™, Versilux™, Rough Cut Weatherboard, Classic Weatherboard, ComTex™ Panel.*

**Use:** "Hardishears" or a Wet Makita Saw (Models 4101R and 4107R)

*Cutting other compressed sheeting greater than 6mm - Hardipanel™ Compressed Sheet*

**Use:** An approved "wet saw" such as a Wet Makita Saw (Models 4101R and 4107R)

If the above recommended practices are not followed, wear suitable personal protection. (see Personal Protection).

When sweeping up debris and dust, use water to suppress dust and wear a Class P1 or P2 particulate respirator.

## PERSONAL PROTECTION:

**Eye:** If cutting materials with power tools, dust resistant safety goggles/glasses should be worn. AS/NZS1336-1997 "Recommended Practices for Eye Protection in the Industrial Environment" provides further guidance.

**Skin:** Loose comfortable clothing should be worn. Direct skin contact with dust and debris should be avoided by wearing long sleeved shirts and long trousers, a cap or hat, and gloves - standard duty leather or equivalent AS 2161-1978 "Industrial Safety Gloves and Mittens". Work clothes should be washed regularly.

**Inhalation:** If drilling, routing or sanding or cutting dry with abrasive tools, or if dust is otherwise generated, use an approved particulate dust mask (AS/NZS 1715 & 1716) such as Class P1, P2 or P3 respirators, as appropriate. Use only respirators which bear the Australian Standards mark and ensure correct fitting. Note that persons with facial hair will have difficulty in obtaining a satisfactory face seal. Refer to AS/NZS 1715: *Selection, use and maintenance of respiratory protective devices.*

Warn others in area where dust is being generated.

**FLAMMABILITY:** Non-flammable.

<b>SAFE HANDLING INFORMATION</b>
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## STORAGE AND TRANSPORT:

There are no special requirements for handling and storage.

## SPILLS AND DISPOSAL

Good housekeeping practices are necessary for cleaning up areas where building boards have been cut resulting in dust and/or offcuts. A fine water spray should be used to suppress dust when sweeping. If vacuuming, use an industrial vacuum cleaner. Debris should be placed in tied plastic bags ready for disposal.

Waste may be disposed of by landfill, however disposal should comply with federal, state and local requirements.



**FIRE / EXPLOSION HAZARD:**

Extinguish with carbon dioxide, water, foam or dry chemical as for surrounding materials.

**OTHER INFORMATION**

**SMOKING:** Cigarette smoking increases the risk of occupational respiratory diseases. Accordingly, James Hardie recommends that you do not smoke.

**Note:** As of the date of the preparation of this document, the foregoing information is believed to be accurate. Please check the currency of this MSDS by contacting the Product Safety enquiry number on 13 1103.

**CONTACT POINT**

If additional information is required, please contact the Product Safety enquiry telephone number on 13 1103.

**WARNING**

Fibre Cement products contain crystalline silica. Breathing in fine silica dust when working with products such as fibre cement, clay and concrete is hazardous and may cause bronchitis, silicosis (lung scarring) or cancer. Do not breath dust.

Work safely with fibre cement sheets by following the precautions recommended in this brochure to minimise dust generation. Operators must wear an approved particulate dust mask (respirator) when power tools used.

These precautions are not necessary when stacking, unloading or handling fibre cement products. For further information and for a Material Safety Data Sheet, phone 13 1103