

## HEALTH & SAFETY



### PLASTERBOARDS

#### 1. Identification of the substance / preparation and company

##### Substance / preparation

- Knauf Wallboard
- Knauf Plank
- Knauf Baseboard
- Knauf Fire Moistureshield
- Knauf Vapourshield
- Knauf Fireshield
- Knauf Moistureshield
- Knauf Denseshield
- Knauf Soundshield
- Knauf Sound Moistureshield
- Knauf Core Board
- Knauf Cove
- Knauf Apertura
- Knauf Futurepanel

##### Manufacturer

Knauf Drywall  
Head Office  
P.O. Box 133  
SITTINGBOURNE  
Kent ME10 3HW

Telephone: (01795) 424499

#### 2. Composition/Information on ingredients

Plasterboard and cove comprise in general of a core of calcium sulphate dihydrate encased in paper liners. Minor additives include starch, foaming agents and dispersants.

Moisture resistant boards and core board contain a silicone additive.

Fire resistant boards and core board include small quantities of glass fibre and vermiculite.

Foil-Backed boards are backed with a metalised polyester film.

#### 3. Hazards Identification

Cutting and sanding of plasterboard or cove may generate excessive dust.

Gypsum dust may irritate eyes or sensitive skin, it may irritate the respiratory system.

It is better for the operator to wear non-restrictive clothing, especially avoiding constrictions at neck and wrist etc. It is recommended that work clothing should be washed separately from other family clothing.

#### 4. First Aid Measures

Inhalation: Remove the person to fresh air.

Skin contact: Rinse skin with running water, then wash with water and soap.

Eye contact: Irrigate with plenty of water and obtain medical advice.

Ingestion: Wash mouth out and drink plenty of water.

*Please note: should any symptoms persist obtain medical assistance.*

#### 5. Fire-fighting Measures

Plasterboard and cove have a limited combustibility.

#### 6. Accidental release measures

The formation of dust should be controlled and suppressed, collect released dust and put into bags.

Prevent these products from contaminating drains and watercourses.

*(refer to section 8, Exposure/Protection and section 13. Disposal Considerations).*

#### 7. Handling and Storage

Plasterboards are supplied shrink wrapped on timber bearers. Cove is supplied either shrink wrapped or in boxes on pallets. Packs should be lifted with a fork lift truck, the forks being set so there is an even weight distribution and no deformation of the pack. Ensure handling equipment is of adequate capacity and that the personnel are advised of handling procedures and safety clothing. Care should be taken at all times to avoid strain to the handlers. Boards should not be lifted at the short edges or carried horizontally. Carry the boards on the edge, two persons per board by supporting one long edge and gripping upper edge to avoid breaking due to flexing.

Plasterboards and cove must be stored flat in a clean dry environment on a flat surface. If timber bearers are used to store boards on site, they should be a minimum 40mm wide and placed at a maximum 450mm centres.

*Note: If handling manually, consider risks as required by manual handling operations regulations 1992.*

Plasterboard or cove are not designed to support body weight; fixers must work from an independent support system.

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### 8. Exposure controls/personal protection

#### Occupational exposure limits

Substance	Total inhalable	Total respirable
Gypsum	10mg/m <sup>3</sup>	4mg/m <sup>3</sup>
Limestone	10mg/m <sup>3</sup>	4mg/m <sup>3</sup>
Quartz	0.3 mg/m <sup>3</sup> (MEL)	
MMMFM	5 mg/m <sup>3</sup> (MEL)	

*Note: 8 hour TWA reference period*

The man made mineral fibres (MMMFM) used in Soundshield, Fireshield, Moistureshield, and Denseshield are non-respirable.

#### Personal protection

Respiratory:	The area of work requires appropriate ventilation and dust formation should be minimised and controlled. If dust formation can not be controlled wear a half face mask to EN 149 Class FFP1S.
Hand:	Protective gloves can be worn, a barrier of cream can be applied to the hands to reduce the effect of hand contact.
Eye:	If the formation of dust is likely to occur, safety goggles to BS EN 166 2A5 are recommended.
Skin:	To avoid skin contact wear overalls and footwear.

### 9. Physical and chemical properties

Appearance:	Plasterboard is a solid flat sheet in a paper envelope. Fireboard is a solid flat sheet with a glass fibre fleece.
Colour:	Varies depending on type.
pH:	7 (Neutral)

*(Refer to section 2 – Composition/Information on ingredients)*

### 10. Stability and reactivity

Stable and unreactive.

### 11. Toxicological information

Inhalation:	Dust can cause short term irritation to the respiratory system, no known long term effects.
Skin contact:	Prolonged or repeated contact may cause dry skin leading to irritation.
Eye contact:	Short term irritation can be experienced due to dust formation.
Ingestion:	Wash mouth out and drink plenty of water.

### 12. Ecological information

Not applicable.

### 13. Disposal Considerations

Can be disposed of at an authorised landfill site in accordance with local or national regulations.

### 14. Transport Information

Not classified as hazardous for transport.

### 15. Regulatory Information

Products are not classified as hazardous under:

Occupational Exposure Limits EH40, (reviewed and reprinted annually).

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations 2002.

### 16. Other Information

This product should be used as directed by Knauf. For further information consult the technical department.

An on-site risk assessment should be carried out before use.

This safety data sheet:

- supersedes all previous issues, and users are cautioned to ensure it is current. Destroy all previous data sheets, and if in any doubt, contact Knauf, quoting the date in the top right hand corner of this document.
- does not replace the users own workplace risk assessment.
- was compiled using the current safety information supplied by the distributors of the component materials.
- is based on the present state of our knowledge and is intended to describe our products from the point of view of health and safety requirement. It should not be construed as guaranteeing specific properties.