

## Rockwool insulation - a safe, natural product



Rockwool stone wool is a safe product to live and work with. What's more, it's probably one of the most well documented and tested of all building materials.

Rockwool stone wool is made from a completely natural and abundant mineral resource that has been used safely for more than 70 years. In addition to the 4-in-1 attributes of superior fire, thermal, acoustic and sustainable performance, its natural properties and unique manufacturing process mean its health and safety credentials are proven beyond doubt.

Rockwool is committed to making a safe and environmentally positive impact at every stage of the product's life from its manufacture, installation, use and final recycling. That means as a company we care about looking after our employees, our customers and our end-users.

Naturally, we comply with all relevant health and safety legislation, and actively support public health studies. But we also go further, providing

detailed technical and health and safety guidance to protect the health and welfare of our customers.

### Rockwool and health - the facts

- Rockwool does not pose a hazard to human health for people who work with it or live with it.
- Rockwool's fibres are bio-soluble, which means they do not remain as fibres but are harmlessly dissolved by the body should they be inhaled.
- Rockwool products do not usually emit any fibres or particles once installed. Tests have shown levels of mineral wool fibres in the air of insulated buildings are often undetectable.

**For your 4 in 1 solution call: 0871 222 1780 or visit [www.rockwool.co.uk](http://www.rockwool.co.uk)**

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### Rockwool and health - your questions answered:

#### Is Rockwool a safe material to work with and to have in my building?

- UK, EU and Irish Health and Safety legislation all confirm that Rockwool is free from suspicion of possible carcinogenic effects (UK HSE "CHIP" Regulations, EU Directive 97/69/EC)
- The World Health Organisation classifies Rockwool as a substance that does not cause cancer in humans. The WHO's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has given it an 'unclassifiable' Category 3 status, based on evidence from extensive worldwide investigations.

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### **Rockwool and health - your questions answered:**

#### **Are the dust and fibres from Rockwool insulation safe?**

- Rockwool fibres are bio-soluble. That means Rockwool fibres do not remain as fibres but are harmlessly dissolved by the body should they be inhaled.

- Rockwool is classified as a substance that does not cause cancer by UK, Irish and European Health and Safety legislation.
- The World Health Organisation also classifies Rockwool as a substance that does not cause cancer in humans.
- The mechanical effect of Rockwool in contact with skin may cause temporary itching. This stops once the exposure is discontinued.
- As is true for many building products, dust can be generated during installation of Rockwool insulation and installers should follow sensible working-practices advice for their comfort.
- Workplace dust is regulated within UK health and safety legislation, including relevant advice on wearing of dust masks. In particular, Rockwool recommends the use of disposable facemasks especially when working in confined or dusty spaces or with high speed cutting tools.
- Rockwool products do not usually emit any fibres or particles if the material is disturbed. Tests have shown levels of mineral wool fibres in the air of insulated buildings are often undetectable.

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### Rockwool and health - your questions answered:

#### **I have heard that Rockwool is made with Formaldehyde. Is this true?**

Rockwool is made with a binding agent which constitutes less than 3.5% of the total weight of the product by weight. This binding agent contains small amounts of formaldehyde as one of its constituents. The formaldehyde is in a fixed or 'cured' form, so it is not emitted from the product.

- Studies show there is no appreciable increase in the levels of formaldehyde in buildings where Rockwool insulation is used.
- Rockwool has conducted tests to confirm that Rockwool products meet the most rigorous standards in Europe classifying the release of formaldehyde.



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But more than this, Rockwool is committed to making a safe and environmentally positive impact at every stage of the product's lifecycle from its manufacture, installation, final use and recycling. That means as a company we care about looking after our employees, our customers and our end-users.

Naturally, we comply with all relevant health and safety legislation, and actively support public health studies. But we also work hard to go further, providing detailed technical and health and safety guidance to protect the health and welfare of our customers.

### Rockwool and health - your questions answered:

#### How is Rockwool any different to Asbestos?

Rockwool does not contain asbestos and is significantly different to asbestos both in terms of its chemistry and physical make-up.

Asbestos fibres and Rockwool fibres have a completely different molecular structure which means they behave very differently should they be inhaled.

- Asbestos fibres have a crystalline molecular structure with so-called 'planes of cleavage'. This means that they split to form thinner fibres which can move readily into the lungs and pleural cavity.
- By contrast, Rockwool fibres are amorphous, so that they do not split. Rockwool's fibres are bio-soluble, which means they do not remain as fibres in the body but harmlessly dissolve should they be inhaled.



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