



Health and safety

Lafarge Plasterboard products are marketed for use in the drylining and decoration of domestic, commercial and retail buildings. Detailed instructions for the use of each product are given in this manual.

In addition Lafarge COSHH Data Sheets are available for all Lafarge products. Contact our Technical Enquiryline on 01275 377789.

The main health and safety issues created by the use of Lafarge Plasterboard products relate to working habits and conditions and the constituents used in the products. It is important that Lafarge Plasterboard products are used only in the manner for which they are intended and in accordance with Lafarge Plasterboard's instructions.

Safe working habits and conditions will ensure that occupational exposure is minimised. To reduce airborne dust, open bags and mix products with water in well ventilated conditions; avoid contact of the dry products with eyes and skin; and always wash exposed skin after use. In the event of contact with eyes, irrigate immediately with plenty of water.

Cutting plasterboard with power tools and sanding generate dust, so should be kept to a minimum. Ideally all operations which produce dust should be carried out in well ventilated conditions; where possible a dust mask selected in accordance with EN 149 should be worn.

The general approach to control of occupational exposure to airborne dust is outlined in Health and Safety Executive Guidance Note EA44.

The Health and Safety Executive Guidance Note EH40/94 gives information about airborne concentration of substances in the workplace for which constant daily exposure will not cause harmful effects, known as Occupational Exposure Standards (OES). The Health and Safety Executive reviews OES's annually in the light of new medical evidence. The following tables show the OES values relevant to constituents of Lafarge Plasterboards products, taken from EH40/94.

Good working practice on site will help to eliminate other potential hazards. Heavy products should only be lifted in the correct way using mechanical handling equipment where necessary. Metal components should be cut and handled carefully to avoid cuts and abrasions. Plasterboard is a lining material and will not support body weight. Adequate support should be provided for installers where necessary.

When using liquid products take care to avoid contact with eyes. Should this happen, irrigate immediately with plenty of clean water and seek medical advice.

Further information and advice on exposure limits, codes of practice and regulations is readily available from:
HSE Library and Information Service,
2 Rose Court, Southwark Bridge,
London SE1 9HS
Tel: 020 7717 6000.

For further information contact:

Technical Enquiryline
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Table 8.12 Occupational Exposure Standards relating to constituents of Lafarge Plasterboard products, taken from EH40/94

Product	Airborne hazard (dust) – Constituent and occupational exposure limit (mg/m ³)*					Other hazard		
	Gypsum	Limestone (Dolomite)	Mica	Man made fibres	Talc			
	10	10	10	5	10			
Lafarge compounds	Cove Adhesive	•						
	Bonding Compound	•						
	Multi Purpose Adhesive	•						
	New Pure Velvet		•	•		•		
	Readymix		•			•		
	Readymix Lite		•	•				
	Fast Set	•	•			•		
	Acoustic Sealant						Acrylic polymers	Harmful if swallowed
	Drywall Sealer						Polyvinyl acetate	Harmful if swallowed
	Sealertex						Polyvinyl acetate	Harmful if swallowed
	Universal Texture	•	•	•				
	Drywall Adhesive						Acrylic polymers	Harmful if swallowed
	Rapid Sand		•	•				
	Deco Cement		•	•				
	Deco Machine		•	•				
	Deco Filler	•	•			•		
Lafarge Plasterboards	Standard wallboards	•						
	Firecheck	•			•		Glass mineral wool	Skin irritation
	Sound Resistant	•			•		Glass mineral wool	Skin irritation
	Moisturecheck	•			•		Glass mineral wool	Skin irritation
	Firecheck Coreboard	•			•		Glass mineral wool	Skin irritation
	Moisture Resistant Firecheck	•			•		Glass mineral wool	Skin irritation
	Thermalcheck boards (K only)	•					Glass mineral wool tissue face	Skin irritation
	Toughcheck	•			•		Glass mineral wool	Skin irritation
	Contour	•			•			
	Lafarge Cove	•						
	Fresco	•			•		Glass mineral wool	Skin irritation
	Predeco	•						
	Megadeco	•			•		Glass mineral wool	Skin irritation
	Hydrodeco	•			•		Glass mineral wool	Skin irritation
Lafarge Plasters	Supreme Skim	•	•					

*Total inhalation dust, long term exposure time, 8 hour reference period



Table 8.13 Health and Safety data for Plasterboard/Cove

Products covered	Lafarge Standard Wallboard Lafarge Contour Wallboard Lafarge Plank Lafarge Baseboard Lafarge Vapourcheck Wallboard Lafarge Vapourcheck Baseboard Lafarge dBcheck Wallboard	Lafarge Moisture Resistant Firecheck Lafarge Firecheck Wallboard Lafarge Firecheck Coreboard Lafarge Moisturecheck Wallboard Lafarge Cove Lafarge Toughcheck Wallboard Lafarge Vapourcheck variants, eg Firecheck, dBcheck, etc	Lafarge Fresco Wallboard Lafarge Panelplus partition Lafarge Predeco Wallboard Lafarge Thermalcheck Wallboard XP/K/dB Lafarge Megadeco Lafarge Hydrodeco
Use	For use internally as linings and decorative features in buildings.		
Handling instructions	When handling assess the work activity arranging this to prevent injury. Mechanical handling equipment may be required.		
Personal protection	If significant dust is to be generated when working with these products, suitable respiratory protection should be worn, usually a dust mask.		
First Aid	For eye contamination, irrigate with water and seek medical attention if irritation occurs.		
Storage	Store flat in a dry place.		
Disposal	To a registered land-fill site.		
Fire/Explosion	Normally non-hazardous, but in extreme heat may evolve toxic fumes.		
Composition	Contains calcium sulphate dihydrate, between paper, with minor additives to improve the products. Megadeco, Firecheck, Moisture Resistant Firecheck, Toughcheck and Fresco contain glass fibre and vermiculate. Vapourcheck is covered with a polyester film. dBcheck contains glass fibre. Moisture Resistant board contains silicone or wax emulsion in small quantities. Panel Plus is a composite of two wallboards joined by a honeycomb core of paper. Thermalcheck is laminated with an expanded polystyrene/extruded polystyrene/phenolic foam.		
Exposure Limits	mg/m ³ *		
	Gypsum	– Total inhalable dust	10
		– Respirable dust	4
	* 8 hour time weighted average		

Table 8.14 Health and Safety data for Plasters/Adhesives

Products covered	Lafarge Bonding Compound Lafarge Cove Adhesives	Lafarge Multipurpose Adhesive Lafarge Drywall Adhesive	Lafarge Supreme Skim Plaster
Use	For use with Lafarge plasterboards or systems internally in buildings.		
Handling instructions	When handling assess the work activity arranging this to prevent injury. Mechanical handling equipment may be required.		
Personal protection	If significant dust is generated when working with these products, suitable respiratory protection should be worn, usually a dust mask. gypsum based materials and Drywall Adhesive may cause skin irritation, therefore protective gloves should be worn where practical.		
First Aid	Gypsum Based Products: For eye contamination, irrigate with water and seek medical attention if irritation occurs. If ingested wash out mouth and drink plenty of water. Drywall Adhesives: For eye contamination irrigate with water for a minimum of five minutes and seek immediate medical attention. If ingested send the patient immediately to hospital, or obtain immediate medical assistance. DO NOT induce vomiting.		
Spillage	Dry material should be collected by vacuum or brush and shovel avoiding excessive dust creation. Drywall Adhesive should be allowed to dry and then removed with a suitable implement.		
Storage	Store clear of the ground in a dry store.		
Disposal	To a registered land-fill site.		
Fire/Explosion	Normally non-hazardous, but in extreme heat may evolve toxic fumes.		
Composition	All gypsum based products contain calcium sulphate hemihydrate with small amounts of additives to improve workability. Ivory plasters and Supreme Skim also contain limestone and small amounts of lime. Drywall Adhesive is a filled acrylic aqueous paste.		
Exposure Limits	mg/m ³ *		
	Gypsum	– Total inhalable dust	10
		– Respirable dust	4
	Plaster	– Total inhalable dust	10
		– Respirable dust	4
	* 8 hour time weighted average		



Table 8.15 Health and Safety data for Jointing Compounds, Texture and Sealers

Products Covered	Lafarge Fast Set Lafarge New Pure Velvet Lafarge Readymix Lafarge Readymix Lite Lafarge Easy Finish	Lafarge Deco Joint Cement Lafarge Predeco Joint Filler Lafarge Deco Machine Lafarge Universal Texture Lafarge Cooltex	Lafarge Universal Sealer Lafarge Drywall Sealer Lafarge Sealertex Lafarge Intumescent Sealant Lafarge Rapid Sand
Use	For use as jointing, sealing and texturing compounds with Lafarge plasterboards.		
Handling Instructions	When handling, assess the work activity, arranging this to prevent injury. Mechanical handling equipment may be required.		
Personal Protection	If significant dust is to be generated when working with these products, suitable respiratory protection should be worn, usually a dust mask. When applying sealers eye protection and protective gloves should be worn.		
First Aid	For eye contamination, irrigate with water for a minimum of five minutes and seek medical attention. If ingested wash out mouth and drink plenty of water. Seek medical advice. DO NOT induce vomiting.		
Spillage	Dry material should be collected by vacuum or brush and shovel avoiding excessive dust creation. Wet product should be contained by an absorbent material and collected for disposal. With sealers contain spillage with sand or earth so as to prevent entry into drains and watercourses. Treat with sand or mineral absorbent material, gather up and dispose of in an approved manner.		
Storage	Store clear of the ground in a dry store in the temperature range 5 - 30°C.		
Disposal	To a registered land-fill site.		
Fire/Explosion	Normally non-hazardous, but in extreme heat may evolve toxic fumes.		
Composition	Individual products may contain plaster, limestone, talc, mica, perlite; all products contain small amounts of additives to improve workability. Drywall and Universal Sealer are filled synthetic polymer emulsions. Intumescent Sealer is an acrylic polymer.		
Exposure Limits		mg/m ³ *	mg/m ³ *
	Plaster - Total inhalable dust	10	Limestone - Total inhalable dust
	- Respirable dust	4	- Respirable dust
	Talc - Respirable dust	1	Mica - Total inhalable dust
			- Respirable dust
			0.8
	* 8 hour time weighed average		

Table 8.16 Health and Safety data for Metal Sections

Products covered	Cormet Metal Sections, including: Cormet Profiles, Stud, Track, Angles, Edge Bead, MF and Dryliner sections
Use	For use as framework for the attachment of plasterboard in the construction of internal partitions, wall linings and ceilings.
Handling Instructions	During offload bundles should be handled using a suitable forklift. When bundles are lifted by hoists or cranes ropes and slings should be used together with suitable edge protection. Steel sections are not intended to support body weight. Bundles should be opened whilst on the ground to avoid sub packs falling.
Personal Protection	There is a risk of laceration from sharp corners or edges until the plasterboard has been attached. Contamination from residual forming lubricants may cause skin irritation. Suitable eye protection and safety gloves must be worn at all times, from first handling to completion of construction including by those in the vicinity of construction.
First Aid	In the event of skin irritation, eye injury, cuts and abrasions seek medical attention.
Storage	Store and stack laid flat, supported for the full length and under cover. Do not store along side or in contact with dry cement, lime, plaster or mortar.
Disposal	Steel sections can be recycled through proper channels. Alternatively dispose of at a registered landfill site.
Fire/Explosion	Not classified as hazardous for transportation.
Composition	Steel and Zinc or Aluminium
Exposure limits	None



Table 8.17 Health and Safety data for Cormet Metal Accessories

Products Covered	Brackets and Clips of any shape, gauge, length and material. Including: Dryliner, Column & Beam, Metal Furring, Archliner, Nails, Screws, and any tool or component including a metal section.
Use	For use with Lafarge plasterboard or systems internally in buildings
Handling Instructions	Materials supplied in outer quantity, where necessary should be off loaded with a suitable fork lift truck When lifting by hoist or cranes, ropes and slings should be used together with suitable edge protection. Pre-packed bundles or outer should always be opened on a flat firm base. Care should be taken when handling sharp pointed or sharp components
Personal Protection	There is a risk of laceration or penetration by sharp edges or points. Contamination from residual forming lubricants may cause skin irritation. Suitable eye protection and where applicable, safety gloves should be worn at all times from the first handling to completion of construction.
First Aid	In the event of skin irritation, eye injury, cuts or abrasions. Medical attention should be sought immediately.
Storage	Store and stack laid flat supported for the full length under cover. Do not store alongside or in contact with cement, lime, plaster or mortar.
Disposal	Metal components can be recycled through proper channels. Alternatively, dispose at a registered landfill site
Fire/Explosion	Not classified as hazardous for transportation
Composition	Steel, zinc and aluminium
Exposure limits	None

Table 8.18 Health and Safety data for Intumescent Acoustic Sealant

Products Covered	Lafarge Intumescent Acoustic Sealant
Use	For use to prevent the passage of sound or fire through penetrations up to 15mm
Handling Instructions	When handling, assess the work activity, arranging this to prevent injury. Mechanical handling equipment may be required.
Personal Protection	May cause skin irritation, use suitable barrier cream.
First Aid	For eye contamination, irrigate with water and seek medical attention if irritation occurs. If ingested wash out mouth and drink plenty of water. Seek medical advice.
Storage	Store clear of the ground in a dry store.
Disposal	Dispose of at a registered landfill site.
Fire/Explosion	Not classified as hazardous for transportation.
Composition	Acrylic Polymers
Exposure limits	None