

Health & Safety Data Sheet

Packaged Fired Clay Bricks - Health & Safety Information

The Health & Safety At Work Act; Consumer Protection Act and other legislation requires the provision of information relating to products giving advice on the handling, storage, transport, process, manual handling and disposal without risk to health.

Scope of Data	The information on this sheet covers all the fired clay brick types distributed by the company.
Composition	The composition of fired clay bricks will vary depending on the clay type and additives used. In general there is approximately 60% silica in the brick body and loose facing material is also predominantly silica with small traces of residual staining material [metallic oxides and some silicates]. All constituents of the clay brick are converted to a neutral non-hazardous state during the firing process.
Brick Pack Handling, Storage & Transport	<p>Clay facing bricks are packaged according to the product type. The pack weight will vary for each brick product type, however the maximum weight is 1.4 tonnes. Equipment used for the lifting of packs must be adequate for the weight involved.</p> <p>Clay facing bricks are packed and strapped on disposable wooden pallets with a plastic hood covering. Shrink wrapping is sometimes used to contain special shape bricks on the pallet. The strapping material used is polyester bands.</p> <p>Packs should always be placed on firm level ground and ideally should not be stacked, however do not stack bricks more than 2 packs high at any time. If packs show evidence of leaning they should be repositioned at ground level. Only competent forklift or mechanical offload operatives should carry out this type of activity.</p> <p>All personnel must stand well clear of packs when they are being lifted or moved.</p> <p>If bricks packs are to be stored at higher levels during construction, the area should be suitably designed to carry the weight, guard rails and brick netting should also be in place to prevent any bricks falling to lower work areas.</p> <p>If Brick Packs are to be lifted to higher levels than 1 metre a fit for purpose safety cage is to surround the pack.</p> <p>Brick Packs should never be lifted by the strapping when handling. Handling forks should be approximately 90 mm wide and 1100 mm long. These should be engaged through the pallet voids or in some cases through the pack void holes.</p>

If the plastic hood or straps has been opened, the bricks on the pallet must be secured to prevent any bricks from falling during any subsequent lifting [provide safety cage].

Only packs which have not been opened should be lifted by a grab mechanism. The grab should grip the pallet at the base of the pack and under no circumstances on the sides of the pack where total dependency upon the straps for pack integrity is required during lifting.

Under certain circumstances it is possible that the straps holding the pack together could snap allowing the bricks to fall. Following precautions to be taken:-

- Avoid abnormal shocks to the packs by dropping or rubbing.
- Avoid sliding one pack along top face of another.

Note: plastic hoods and straps may deteriorate over a period of time by ultraviolet ageing.

The use of safety hats and boots is recommended in work areas to minimise any risks associated with falling bricks or sharp edges.

Processing

Straps should be cut by a suitable strap cutter and not burst by the application of levered pressure. When cutting straps the operative should not stand in line with the strap being cut. Highly tensioned straps can spring away from the package when tension is released. The wearing of Industrial Gloves and Eye Protection is recommended.

Eye protection should be worn to protect against the possibility of a sharp chip flying when the brick is hit by a trowel, bolster, scutch etc.

COSHH [Control of Substances Hazardous to Health]

Fired clay bricks which are used as supplied will not present any significant risk to health.

Fired clay bricks contain 50% - 70% silica. Substantial amounts of dust can be produced during cutting or drilling by power tools. Depending on the environment and the equipment used, it is possible that some respirable silica may be generated.

Under current COSHH legalisation, the maximum allowable Work Exposure Limit (WEL) for respirable silica is currently 0.1 mg/m³. Levels of individual exposure during cutting or drilling can be checked by detailed personal monitoring.

The main risk to humans by the inhalation of respirable silica dust is silicosis, which could eventually lead to lung cancer. Any reduction in exposure will reduce the risk of silicosis.

	<p>Where possible the dry cutting method should be avoided. Wet cutting reduces the amount of dust generated and as such is a preferable method of cutting.</p> <p>Persons carrying out a dry cutting operation must wear suitable respiratory protection. A suitable respirator or disposable mask meeting BS EN149 is recommended. Appropriate respiratory protection is also recommended to be used by those working near to a dry cutting operation.</p> <p>During cutting or drilling 'ear protection' may be required due to noise. Consult the cutting & drilling equipment manufacturer to establish the dbA rating for the equipment being used, and also noise monitoring of the work area when cutting or drilling is taking place is advisable if prolonged periods of exposure are likely.[Ear Protection recommended for over 85dbA]</p>
Manual Handling	<p>During the cutting operation, the brick should be firmly held by a mechanical clamp or device to prevent movement.</p> <p>Continuous handling of individual fired clay bricks may cause abrasion to the skin on fingers or hands. The wearing of protective gloves is recommended.</p> <p>The maximum weight of a standard fired clay brick is 3.0 kg. Brick special shapes may weigh more but will be most likely less than 10 kg. This presents a low risk of a manual handling injury. Consultation with the HSE Information Sheet No. 37 is advisable. This covers the topic of 'Handling Building blocks'.</p> <p>Repetitive handling of any product including bricks can lead to upper limb disorders such as strains and sprains. People involved in this type of work should be offered specialist help to achieve early warning of such symptoms.</p>
Disposal	<p>Redundant Pack Hoods and Straps should be gathered and placed in a designated waste disposal skip for removal to an approved tip or recycling facility. If the materials are being collected for recycling the plastic hoods and straps should be segregated in separate skips.</p> <p>Wooden pallets can be returned to the company for reuse. If the pallets are in good condition and are placed in a collection area at the site, they can be collected if requested at a future delivery. For practical reasons this applies in Ireland only.</p> <p>Burning of the plastic hoods and straps on sites is not normally allowable in most areas. Plastic materials can give off harmful fumes. If it is allowable to burn wooden pallets at the site, it is recommended that care is exercised not to contravene environmental pollution controls.</p>

Fire	No hazard exists. Fired clay bricks will not give off any toxic fumes if subjected to heat of fire.
First-Aid	<p>Cuts: Cuts and abrasions should be washed with clean water and treated in a normal first aid method.</p> <p>Eyes: If dust enters the eye wash with clean water, seek medical advice if the problem persists. If a brick chip enters the eye seek specialist medical attention immediately.</p> <p>Skin: Normal first aid if skin becomes broken. If the skin becomes irritated wash with soap and water and then apply a suitable skin cream.</p> <p>Ingestion: Drink plenty of clean water. Non-toxic; no lasting effect anticipated.</p> <p>Inhalation: Move into fresh air. Seek medical advice if severe or persistent irritation occurs.</p>
Other Advice	<p>It is the customers responsibility to obtain technical data on all the materials to be used with the brick products. No Liability can be accepted in respect of other materials used in conjunction with Trinity products.</p> <p>Please consult our "Recommendations for the Use and Handling of Bricks" information sheet which is included in each pack of bricks supplied. Copies of this leaflet can be supplied upon request and is available on the website www.trinitybricks.com</p> <p>Cleaning of Brickwork: please see the Information leaflet which is available upon request.</p> <p>For all technical information enquiries contact the sales office using the details above or visit our website: www.trinitybricks.com</p>

The information contained in this document is believed to be accurate at the time of issue.

Trinity Bricks Limited

March 2010