

PRODUCTS CONTAINING CRYSTALLINE SILICA

When working with products that contain Crystalline Silica (CS), it is best practice to always wear a dust mask.

At Siniat, we take the health of anyone who works with our products seriously. With this in mind, we have decided to move ahead of any potential industry regulations in relation to CS.

Some of our products contain CS and these are labelled accordingly.

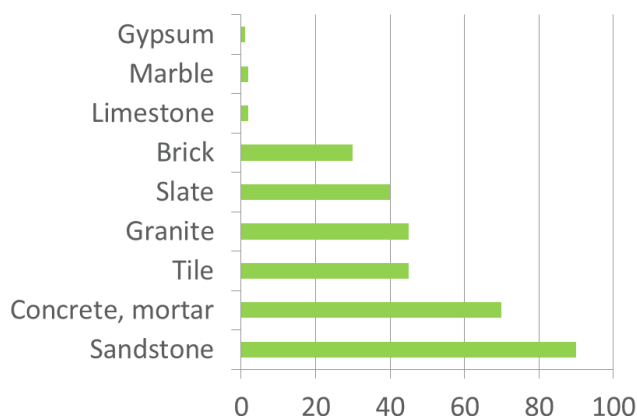
What is Crystalline Silica (CS)?

Constituting 12% of the Earth's crust, CS is the second most abundant mineral in nature.

It is everywhere in our daily environment: on beaches and roads, in gardens, food, cars, skin products, technical gadgets – it has hundreds of applications in our daily lives. Sand and gravel for instance, consist mostly of CS along with other elements.

The major constituent of our plasterboard products is Gypsum and (as you can see from the table across) this mineral contains a relatively low amount of CS.

Approximate CS content of different materials (%)



What is Respirable Crystalline Silica?

When CS is mechanically altered – drilled or sanded for instance – it can create dust. If this dust becomes airborne, then a tiny fraction of it can be small enough to reach deeply into the lungs. This dust is called Respirable Crystalline Silica (RCS).

What happens if I breathe this dust in?

Most of the dust you can see in the air – if breathed in – is simply coughed up by the human body. RCS refers to the most tiny airborne particles of CS, these make up only a very small percentage of the airborne dust. These RCS particles are small enough to reach deeply into the lungs and can cause harmful health effects.

How can I protect myself from RCS?

RCS can be created when CS is mechanically altered. It is important that you remember to use tools with dust extraction, keep your workplace ventilated and/or use a dust mask of at least type FFP2 and other suitable Personal Protective Equipment.

What products might produce RCS?

Various construction materials and products, from many different manufacturers have the potential to produce RCS. The major constituent of our plasterboard products is gypsum. Materials such as sandstone, concrete, glass, grout, stone and sand all contain higher amounts of CS than Gypsum.

Is quartz the same thing as CS?

As quartz is the most common form of CS (more than 90%), it is sometimes used in literature in place of CS.