

Safe Handling and Use

Issued under the Consumer Protection Act 1987, the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH)

Product

Concrete Blocks and Pavers manufactured by Plasmor.

Trade Names - Stranlite, Fibolite, Aglite Ultima, Plascon, Plaspave Concrete Paving Block Ranges.



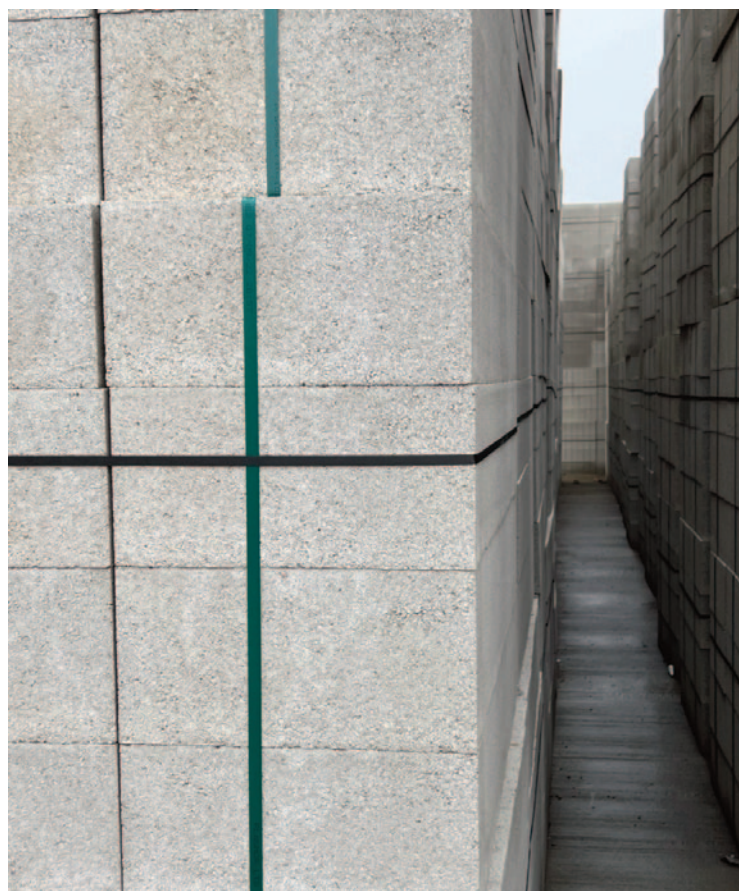
Application

Plasmor Concrete Blocks and Pavers are manufactured for the use in the building and construction industry, and should be used with reference to national standards and local codes of practice.

Physical and Chemical Characteristics

Plasmor Concrete Blocks and Pavers are manufactured using naturally occurring aggregates and man-made aggregates; cement; p.f.a. and water.

Coloured products contain pigments.



Main Hazards

Plasmor Concrete Blocks and Pavers are inherently safe. The main hazards are:-

- (a) sharp and abrasive edges and surfaces.
- (b) weight of products particularly dense and masonry.
- (c) dust produced during cutting and surface treatments which may contain quartz.

If inhaled in excessive quantities over extended periods of time respirable dust containing quartz can constitute a long-term health hazard.

Procedures in use

Plasmor blocks and pavers are generally delivered on vehicles with crane off-loading equipment. The customer is responsible for providing an area, including appropriate ground conditions, suitable for the safe offloading and safe storage of blocks and pavers, taking into account our operational procedure 'Delivery to customer sites / yards', (see the **Health and Safety** in the Plasmor website Technical Library). Where the customer elects to move the stock on site post-delivery, it is recommended that precautions are taken to maintain the integrity of the packs of product whilst this is done. It is further recommended that the customer assesses the ground conditions, product pack condition, pallet condition (where used) and any other factors that may affect the safe handling and storage of product on their premises when re-siting stock. Care should be taken when unpacking blocks to prevent the risk of falling blocks and manual handling injuries. Packs of product should be placed on firm level ground prior to attempting to remove individual blocks and suitable gloves worn to protect the hands against the abrasive edges and roughness of the blocks. When splitting a pack of blocks the method below is recommended as good practice.

Care should be taken when removing the banding/shrink-wrapping to avoid injury from the banding/shrink wrapping or any loose blocks when the banding or wrapping is released. We recommend that blocks/pavers are drawn from the centre of the top layer leaving the banding intact.

Care should be taken when handling individual products to avoid the risk of injury from sharp edges, abrasive texture and dust fragments; inhalation of any dust produced from aggregates should be avoided.

Lifting of individual blocks/pavers

You should carry out a manual handling assessment of the work to be carried out, particularly where repetitive handling is involved. Note should be made of the current HSE Construction Information Sheet (CIS77), 'Preventing injury from handling heavy blocks' particularly with reference to repetitive handling of heavy blocks. Further information is available from the Concrete Block Association's information sheet 'Safe Handling and use of Concrete Blocks' - copies available on request or visit www.cba-blocks.org.uk.

Protective clothing

Protective clothing should be worn when handling Plasmor Blocks and Pavers. In particular, safety footwear, head protection and abrasion resistant gloves should be worn when handling or dismantling packs of product.

Dust control

When cutting or chasing concrete products primary dust control in the form of on-tool extraction or suppressing dust through use of water should be used. Alternatively the use of a block splitter would prevent dust formation. Where these methods are not appropriate or do not reduce exposure enough, the additional use of respiratory protective equipment (RPE) may be required. If RPE is used it must be adequate for the amount and type of dust and an APF of 20 is recommended. Please refer to HSE Construction Information Sheet (CIS36), 'Construction dust'.

Technical Information

Removing Blocks from Packs (Good practice)

Do not cut bands before you start

- Starting with the top row, remove block from position No.1 by pulling it out from beneath the strap. Repeat this for the other blocks through to No. 12.
- Starting at No. 13, repeat for the top row back half.
- At row 2, starting with block position No. 25, lift this block over the lateral strap. With this row, alternate between the corresponding block in the front and back of the pack working from the middle out.
- Once the top 2 rows are completely removed, start removing blocks from row 3 then 4 from the outside and work back towards the middle.

Note

Packs should always be placed on firm/level ground and, if on pallets, the pallet must be strong and large enough to support the whole pack with no blocks over-hanging.

