

33824-XXXX

SAFETY DATA SHEET

PRODUCT: Natural Indian Soapstone (Steatite)
RECOMMENDED USE: Architectural surfaces, carving, industrial applications, and consumer goods.

SECTION 1: IDENTIFICATION

Product Identifier: Indian Soapstone / Steatite / Soapstone Rock
Synonyms: Talc Rock, Massive Talc, Soapstone block

SECTION 2: HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION

Classification: Not classified as hazardous in its solid, intact bulk form. However, mechanical processing (cutting, grinding, carving) releases respirable dust which carries specific hazards.
Signal Word: Warning (Applicable to generated dust only)
Hazard Statements (Dust):

- May cause respiratory irritation.
- May cause damage to organs (lungs) through prolonged or repeated exposure via inhalation.

Precautionary Statements:

- Do not breathe dust.
- Use only outdoors or in a well-ventilated area.
- Wear protective gloves, clothing, and eye/face protection.

SECTION 3: COMPOSITION / INFORMATION ON INGREDIENTS

Natural mineral substance of variable composition depending on the regional deposit in India.

Chemical Name / Mineral	CAS Number	Weight %
Talc (Mg3H2(SiO3)4)	14807-96-6	40% - 70%
Magnesite (MgCO3)	546-93-0	10% - 40%
Chlorite-group minerals	1318-59-8	5% - 20%
Quartz (Crystalline Silica)*	14808-60-7	< 1% (Trace)

**Note: Crystalline silica content varies by deposit quarry, typically remaining below generic hazard thresholds.*

SECTION 4: FIRST-AID MEASURES

Inhalation: Remove person to fresh air. Seek medical attention if irritation persists or coughing develops.
Skin Contact: Wash with soap and water. Mineral dust can cause dry skin.
Eye Contact: Flush open eyes thoroughly with water for several minutes. Remove contact lenses if present. Seek medical help if irritation continues.
Ingestion: Not applicable in solid form. For dust ingestion, rinse mouth with water. Drink plenty of water.

SECTION 5: FIRE-FIGHTING MEASURES

Extinguishing Media: Non-flammable and non-combustible. Use media appropriate for surrounding fire.

Specific Hazards: None. Material will not support combustion.

SECTION 6: ACCIDENTAL RELEASE MEASURES

Personal Precautions: Avoid dry sweeping or generating airborne dust. Use proper PPE.

Environmental Precautions: Solid stone poses no threat. Avoid dumping fine dust directly into open waterways.

Clean-up Methods: Collect solid blocks manually. Vacuum dust using a system equipped with a HEPA filter or apply a water mist prior to sweeping.

SECTION 7: HANDLING AND STORAGE

Handling: Use wet-processing methods (wet cutting, wet carving) whenever feasible to eliminate airborne dust. Ensure proper lifting techniques for heavy pieces.

Storage: Store in a secure, dry stable arrangement to prevent tipping risks. No specific chemical incompatibilities.

SECTION 8: EXPOSURE CONTROLS / PERSONAL PROTECTION

Exposure Limits: Talc (respirable fraction): OSHA PEL 2 mg/m³; ACGIH TLV 2 mg/m³.

Engineering Controls: Use local exhaust ventilation or wet dust-suppression tools during mechanical modification.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

- **Respiratory:** NIOSH-approved N95 or P100 particulate respirator when engineering controls are insufficient to limit dust exposure.
- **Eyes:** Safety glasses with side shields or dust goggles.
- **Skin:** Heavy-duty work gloves to prevent mechanical abrasions from raw stone.

SECTION 9: PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

- **Appearance:** Solid rock in varying shades of grey, green, white, or blue-grey.
- **Odor:** Odorless.
- **Solubility:** Insoluble in water.
- **Specific Gravity:** 2.6 - 3.0
- **Melting Point:** Approx. 1300°C - 1400°C

SECTION 10: STABILITY AND REACTIVITY

Reactivity: Stable under normal conditions.

Chemical Stability: Stable.

Incompatible Materials: Avoid strong acids. Soapstone can react slowly with concentrated warm acids.

SECTION 11: TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION

Acute Toxicity: Non-toxic in solid block form.

Chronic Effects: Long-term inhalation of excessive respirable talc and trace silica dust can lead to talcosis or silicotic scarring of the lungs, causing breathlessness and coughing.

This is for informational purposes only. For medical advice or diagnosis, consult a professional.