



4 ways

Stone wool ensures health and safety



The purpose of a building is to protect its occupants from the external environment and provide healthy and comfortable indoor space.

Well-designed and constructed, buildings contribute to good health, create comfortable surroundings, and enhance our ability to concentrate and perform key tasks. It is vital that the buildings in which we live, work, learn, and recover are made of construction materials that are positive for our health and safety, and ensure our everyday comfort and wellbeing.

Here are some factors to consider around the role of stone wool insulation in health and safety-compliant construction projects.

1

Stone wool insulation does not contain any Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC)

Stone wool insulation is free of 'substances of very high concern,' or 'SVHC', such as certain flame retardants or plasticisers. In fact, there is no health or environment-related classification for bio-soluble stone wool insulation, which means these stone wool products are completely safe to manufacture, install and live with.

2

Stone wool insulation is not related to any health issues

Stone wool is proven to be safe to manufacture, install, and live alongside. It has been scientifically tested and studied more than almost any other building material anywhere in the world. Considering the experts conclusions, including the World Health Organization¹ (WHO), we can be sure that stone wool is safe and poses no risk to human health. That's why it is in IARC's Group 3: 'Agents not classifiable as to their carcinogenicity to humans', alongside 'drinking coffee'. They are also classified as bio-soluble² due to their ability to dissolve in a biological system³.

1 - IARC Monographs on the evaluation of carcinogenic risks to humans-Man-made vitreous fibers, WHO, 2002

2 - Note Q of the CLP Regulation ((EC) No 1272/2008))

3 - <http://www.ecetoc.org/report2/biosolubility/definition-for-biosolubility/>

2 (continued)



If stone wool fibres get inhaled, the body takes care of them in the way it takes care of household dust. It breaks them down easily and gets rid of them without us even noticing. Scientific data collected under the umbrella of the REACH regulation (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) also proves that there are no negative human health effects related to stone wool. Below is a table showing the classification groups introduced by WHO and some examples of substances belonging to each category.

Group	Definition	Examples
1	The agent is carcinogenic to humans	Benzene, tobacco smoking, asbestos
2A	The agent is probably carcinogenic to humans	Diesel engine exhaust, using sunlamps
2B	The agent is possibly carcinogenic to humans	Engine exhaust, gasoline, occupational exposures in dry cleaning
3	The agent (mixture or exposure circumstance) is not classifiable as to its carcinogenicity to humans	Caffeine, saccharin and its salts, tea
4	The agent is probably not carcinogenic to humans	The only substance is Caprolactam

3

Stone wool fibres are not classified as either hazardous or as irritants

Some products may generate itching when fibres come into contact with skin, in a similar way to handling straw. This is a temporary condition and not harmful, but also why we always recommend wearing proper clothing including gloves and long-sleeves/pants when handling the product, to avoid this type of mechanical irritation. Stone wool causes no chemical irritation, and poses no risk to human health.

The recommendations presented in the pictograms on the right should be followed during installation of stone wool products.

Cover exposed skin.
When working in unventilated area wear disposable face mask



Ventilate working area if possible



Rinse in cold water before washing



Waste should be disposed of according to local regulations



Clean area using vacuum equipment



Wear goggles when working overhead



4

Stone wool products can generate extra positive health and safety effects for the building occupants

Our comfort in indoor environments is partially defined by sounds. Protection from unwanted noise can have a positive effect on our physiology, learning capacity and social behaviour. Stone wool products are excellent at reducing noise and absorbing sound, and can be used to create a high-quality acoustical environment.

Additionally, stone wool insulation is a key component of fire resilient buildings, and with its excellent fire resistance properties creates safe places for people to work, learn and live.

Stone wool insulation products help create safe, healthy and quiet indoor environments that pose no danger to our health and safety.

To learn more and get in contact with us, please visit:

www.rockwoolgroup.com

