



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 in health and safety-compliant construction projects.

1

Stone wool is a low emitting material

High levels of CO₂, chemicals, pollutants, and contaminants can lead to loss of concentration, bad odors and irritation. Stone wool is a low-emitting material, meaning it helps maintain a healthy indoor air quality. Our entire portfolio of stone wool ceiling tiles are UL Environment's GREENGUARD Gold Certified for low-emitting products and have been added to the mindful MATERIALS library.

Rockfon tests and labels its stone wool ceiling tiles with the Green Guard Gold mark, indicating compliance with UL's environmental testing program in accordance with UL 2818 for low emitting products furthering our commitment to providing transparency and healthy sustainable products.



2

Stone wool 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 Organization (WHO),¹ 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-soluble due to their ability to dissolve in a biological system.^{2,3} Furthermore stone wool, made from naturally occurring basalt rock, does not provide sustenance for mold or bacteria. As a result, stone wool helps maintain indoor air quality and cleanliness without the addition of antimicrobials.

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 fibers 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, Authorization 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 fibers are not classified as either hazardous or as irritants

Some products may generate itching when fibers 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 ceiling tiles can be 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 products help create safe, healthy and quiet indoor environments that pose no danger to our health and safety.

[Click here to learn more about how stone wool ensures health and safety](#)

