

United States Gypsum Company  
125 South Franklin Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60606-4678

Product Safety: 1 (800) 507-8899  
Version Date: February 20, 2001  
Version 4

**PRODUCT(S):** USG SHEETROCK® Brand All Purpose Joint Compound Ready-Mixed.  
**CHEMICAL FAMILY:** Aqueous mixture of limestone and latex.

MATERIAL	WT%	TLV (mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	PEL (mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	CAS NUMBER
Limestone	>45	10	15(T)/5(R)	1317-65-3
Or Dolomite		10	15(T)/5(R)	16389-88-1
Or Gypsum		10	15(T)/5(R)	13397-24-5
Water	<35	(NE)	(NE)	7732-18-5
Mica	<10	3(R)	3(R)	12001-26-2
Ethylene—Vinyl Acetate Polymer	<5	(NE)	(NE)	24937-78-8
Or vinyl Acetate Polymer		(NE)	(NE)	9003-20-7
Attapulgit	<5	(NE)	(NE)	12174-11-7
Vinyl Acetate Monomer	<0.1	10ppm	10ppm	108-05-4
Acetaldehyde	<0.1	100ppm	100ppm	75-07-0
Crystalline Silica	<2	0.1(R)	0.1(R)	14808-60-7
May contain the following:				
Talc	<10	2(R)	2(R)	14807-96-6
Pyrophyllite	<5	(NE)	(NE)	12269-78-2

(T) – Total (R) – Respirable (NE) – Not Established

\*\*\*\*\* This is a Non-Asbestos Product. \*\*\*\*\*

All ingredients of this product are included in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Toxic Substances Control Act Chemical Substance Inventory. All components of this product are included in the Canadian Domestic Substances List (DSL) or the Canadian Non-Domestic Substances List (NDSL).

## INFORMATION FOR HANDLING AND IDENTIFICATION OF CHEMICAL HAZARDS

NFPA Ratings: Health: 0 Fire: 0 Reactivity: 0 Other: N/A  
HMIS Ratings: Health: 0 Fire: 0 Reactivity: 0

Personal Protection: Use eye and skin protection. Use NIOSH/MSHA-approved respiratory protection when necessary.  
0 = Minimal Hazard 1 = Slight Hazard 2 = Moderate Hazard 3 = Serious Hazard 4 = Severe Hazard

**Appearance and Odor:** Off white paste; low odor.  
**Boiling Point:** 212°F  
**Melting/Freezing Point:** 32°F  
**Specific Gravity (H<sub>2</sub>O = 1):** 1.6

**pH Range:** 7-8.5  
**Vapor Pressure:** 17 @ 20°F  
**Volatile Organic Compounds:** <2 g/L  
**Hardening Time:** Varies. Check usage and/or product specification data.

**Flash Point (Method Used):** Noncombustible  
**Extinguishing Media:** Use extinguishing media appropriate for surrounding fire.  
**Special Fire Fighting Procedures:** None  
**Unusual Fire and Explosion Hazards:** None  
**Special Fire Fighting Protective Equipment:** None

Nuisance dust can be released during dry sanding of this product. Eye, skin, nose, throat, and upper respiratory irritation can occur with prolonged dust exposure.

#### **EFFECTS OF OVEREXPOSURE:**

##### **ACUTE:**

**EYES:** Direct contact can cause mechanical irritation of eyes. If burning, redness, itching, pain or other symptoms persist or develop, consult physician.

**SKIN:** Direct, prolonged or repeated contact with the skin may cause irritation. May dry skin. Rubbing of this product against the skin can result in abrasions. Rinse with water until free of material to avoid abrasions, then wash skin thoroughly with mild soap and water. If irritation persists, consult physician.

**INHALATION:** Inhalation of dust from this product may irritate the nose, throat, lungs, and upper respiratory tract. Persons subjected to large amounts of this dust will be forced to leave area because of nuisance conditions such as coughing, sneezing and nasal irritation from dust. Labored breathing may occur after excessive inhalation. If respiratory symptoms persist, consult physician.

**INGESTION:** No known effects.

##### **CHRONIC:**

**EYES:** None known.

**SKIN:** None known.

**INHALATION:** This product may contain small amounts of vinyl acetate monomer, vapors of which have been shown to cause tumors in the respiratory tract of laboratory animals. Chronic overexposure to vinyl acetate is not expected to occur during normal handling and use of this product. Vinyl acetate has been shown to cause irritation and cancer in inhalation studies with laboratory animals. Test levels of 600ppm over a lifetime cause an increase in tumors in the respiratory tract of the test animals. 200ppm caused irritation. No tumors were observed in the animals exposed at 50ppm or lower. There is no evidence of adverse effects to humans exposed to levels at or below the TLV.

Chronic overexposure to respirable crystalline silica may result in lung disease (i.e., silicosis) and/or lung cancer. Prolonged and repeated breathing of respirable mica or talc dust may cause lung disease (pneumoconiosis).

**INGESTION:** No Known effects.

#### **EMERGENCY AND FIRST AID PROCEDURES:**

**EYES:** Flush thoroughly with plenty of water for 15 minutes to remove particles. If irritation persists, consult physician.

**SKIN:** Rinse with water, then wash with mild soap and water. A commercially available hand lotion may be used to treat dry skin areas. If skin has become cracked, take appropriate action to prevent infection and promote healing. If irritation persists, consult physician.

**INHALATION:** Remove to fresh air. Leave the area of dust exposure and remain away until coughing and other symptoms subside. Other measures are usually not necessary, however, if conditions warrant, contact physician.

**INGESTION:** No harmful effects expected. No specific recommendation. If gastric disturbance occurs, call physician.

**TARGET ORGANS:** Eyes, skin, and respiratory system.

**MEDICAL CONDITIONS WHICH MAY BE AGGRAVATED:** Pre-existing upper respiratory and lung diseases such as, but not limited to, bronchitis, emphysema and asthma.

**PRIMARY ROUTES OF ENTRY:** Inhalation; Eye and/or Skin contact.

**CARCINOGENICITY OF INGREDIENTS:**

MATERIAL	IARC	NTP
Respirable Crystalline Silica	Group 1	Known
Acetaldehyde	2B	Anticipated
Vinyl Acetate Monomer	2B	Not Listed

Vinyl acetate monomer and acetaldehyde, if present, are trace components of the vinyl acetate polymer. Quantities of monomer have not been measured, but would be expected to be less than 0.1 Wt. %.

USG has measured exposure levels of respirable crystalline silica at jobsites during ready-mixed joint compound applications and sanding for this product. Results of this industrial hygiene testing for USG joint compounds showed no detection of respirable crystalline silica following NIOSH Method 7500. Industrial hygiene testing on this product for formaldehyde exposure during mixing and application of ready-mixed joint compound showed no detection of formaldehyde.

In June, 1997, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classified crystalline silica (quartz and cristobalite) as a human carcinogen. In making the overall evaluation, the IARC Working Group noted that carcinogenicity in humans was not detected in all industrial circumstances studies. Carcinogenicity may be dependent on inherent characteristics of the crystalline silica or on external factors affecting its biological activity or distribution of its polymorphs.

IARC states that crystalline silica inhaled in the form of quartz or cristobalite from occupational sources is carcinogenic to humans (Group 1).

<b>STABILITY:</b>	Stable.
<b>INCOMPATIBILITY:</b>	None known.
<b>HAZARDOUS POLYMERIZATION:</b>	Will not occur.
<b>HAZARDOUS DECOMPOSITION:</b>	CO <sub>2</sub> would be produced at high temperatures with the decomposition of limestone (~800°C). Stable under normal temperature and pressure. Product contains low level of organic volatiles which may be emitted or released in application processes involving the use of heat. Vent all ovens and process vessels to the outside atmosphere. Thermal decomposition will produce H <sub>2</sub> O, CO <sub>2</sub> , CO, and acetic acid. Could produce vinyl acetate monomers when temperature is above 175°C.

**STEPS TO BE TAKEN IN CASE MATERIAL IS RELEASED OR SPILLED:**

Use normal clean up procedure. Spilled material can produce slippery conditions, be cautious to avoid falling. Wear appropriate protective equipment. Shovel material from spillage into a waste container for disposal.

**WASTE DISPOSAL METHOD:**

Dispose of material in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations.

No TLV assigned to this mixture; see Ingredients Section. Minimize dust exposures in accordance with good hygiene practice.

**RESPIRATORY PROTECTION:**

Not typically necessary under normal conditions of use. Provide general ventilation and local exhaust ventilation to meet TLV requirements of individual ingredients and to control dusting conditions. Wear a NIOSH/MSHA-approved respirator when dusty conditions exist, in poorly ventilated areas, and if TLV is exceeded.

**VENTILATION:**

Ventilate to keep exposures below TLV. General ventilation is expected to be satisfactory. Use local exhaust ventilation if necessary to control dust.

**PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT:**

Wear eye protection (safety glasses or goggles) to avoid particulate irritation of the eye. Gloves or protective clothing are usually not necessary, but may be desirable in specific work situations. Wear adequate clothing to minimize chafing or drying of skin.

**PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN IN HANDLING AND STORAGE:**

Normal precautions should be followed in handling, storage, and use. During handling and use wear the appropriate respiratory, eye and skin protection of warranted per environmental conditions.

Use wet sanding technique to reduce dust exposure when finishing joints. See "Finishing and Decorating Gypsum Panels – Wet Sanding, J-610/12-87".

**Recommended Storage Methods:** Store at room temperature in a dry location. Protect from freezing, extreme heat, and exposure to direct sunlight. Keep tightly sealed.