

1) WHITE GYPSUM - CALCIUM SULFATE HEMIHYDRATE (CASO4•½H2O)

i) INTRODUCTION

Health risks caused by the naturally occurring mineral, gypsum, are minimal when it is properly used. Since the purer forms of this mineral are used in foods and other products that are ingested by humans, the chance for negative chemical or allergic reactions with the user of the products is extremely low.

Finely ground forms of this mineral have an affinity for water, so prolonged handling of the powder without gloves will cause dry skin. The powder will also dry out your nasal passages and throat from prolonged exposure.

When using the bare hands in frequent contact, precautions should be taken to prevent drying of the skin, or rubber gloves should be worn during handling.

Under no circumstances should an excessive bulk of the rehydrated material outside of the instructions for use be allowed to set up on the skin or the resulting heat may cause severe burns. If proper instructions are followed, mineral gypsum products are easy and safe to use.

ii) MATERIAL SAFETY DATA

(a) Food and Drug Administration [CFR Title 21, v.3, sec 184.1230] – Calcium Sulfate is Generally Recognized as Safe (GRAS).

(b) All ingredients of this product are included in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Toxic Substances Control Act Chemical Substance Inventory.

(c) All components of this product are included in the Canadian Domestic Substances List (DSL)

iii) POTENTIAL HEALTH EFFECTS

(a) ACUTE:

1. **Eyes:** Direct contact can cause mechanical irritation of eyes. If burning, redness, itching, pain or other symptoms persist or develop, consult physician.
2. **Skin:** Direct, prolonged or repeated contact with the skin may cause irritation. Rinse with water until skin is free of material to avoid irritation, then wash skin thoroughly with mild soap and water. Repeated exposure may dry skin.
3. **Inhalation:** Dust exposures generated during the handling of the product may irritate eyes, skin, nose, throat, and upper respiratory tract. If respiratory symptoms persist, consult physician.
4. **Ingestion:** Unlikely, but gastric disturbances may result if swallowed. Plaster of Paris is non-toxic, however, ingestion of a sufficient quantity could lead to mechanical obstruction of the gut, especially the pyloric region.

(b) CHRONIC:

1. **Inhalation:** Testing of dust from plaster of Paris has not detected respirable crystalline silica. Exposures to respirable crystalline silica are not expected during the normal use of this product; however, actual levels must be determined by workplace hygiene testing. The weight percent of respirable crystalline silica has not been measured in this product.
2. **Skin:** Repeated contact may dry the skin, causing cracking or dermatitis. Sensitive individuals may develop an allergic dermatitis.

