

Our clay products are inert materials which present no risk to health and safety through handling or use, subject to good site practise.

Our products are not classified as hazardous however we feel the following information may assist with the handling of our products.

Handling and Storage

The use of safety clothing such as safety hats, boots and industrial gloves is strongly recommended wherever practicable, using these named items of personal protective equipment will minimise the risks associated with falling objects and abrasive/sharp edges when handling the product and it's packaging.

If bricks are to be chiselled/broken – or have similar work carried out, eye protection should be worn to protect from any flying debris.

Bricks are grouped together in packs, due to the weight of packs (approximately 1.2 tonnes, can vary according to product and quantity per pack, check specific product information) great care should be taken when manoeuvring them, ensuring appropriate equipment is used.

Some packs may be held together using steel/plastic banding. Personnel involved in handling should be made aware that these might snap. The risk of this occurring can be minimised by avoiding shocks to packs and by not sliding pack faces against other packs. Although it should be noted that straps and bags can deteriorate over time. Strapping should never be used to lift packs. When straps are to be removed, it is advised that they be cut with wire cutters and operative should stand to the side not in direct line with the strap.

For the purposes of transportation when loading lorries on our sites we will only load singly. It may be possible when on sites to stack three high. Client must take into account stacking ground suitability and public safety i.e. level and design. If stacks appear to be leaning, then they should be taken to the ground level.

Note: Repetitive handling of any product including bricks can give rise to upper limb disorders.

Environmental

Michelmersh fired clay products are inert and are not considered to pose any environmental risk.

Waste packaging materials should be disposed of into skips for removal to approved disposal or recycling. Packaging materials should not be burnt on site. Burning may give off harmful fumes.

Note: Broken, damaged or off-cut bricks can potentially be used as an aggregate substitute.

COSHH

In the state that bricks and pavers as a product are provided, they are not seen to be harmful. However, if powered tools are to be used to cut or drill the products, substantial amounts of dust may be produced. In general, fired clay brick products contain 50-70% silica, it is possible that when cut respirable silica may be generated, we therefore strongly recommend that you avoid dry cutting bricks wherever possible. Wet cutting reduces the amount of dust produced and would be a preferred method.

Persons carrying out dry cutting must wear suitable respiratory protection, it would also be recommended for those in the area of such operation.

First Aid Measures

Oral:	Dried Product Dust, give plenty of water and seek medical advice
Eye:	Contact with product, dried product dust. Wash with copious amounts of water and seek medical attention of any irritation persists.
Skin:	Unlikely to cause irritation, if it should then wash with soap and water. If any adverse reaction occurs obtain medical advice.
Inhalation:	Product dust may be harmful by excessive inhalation; occupation health surveillance should be put in place. If affected remove to fresh air and if suffering adverse effects, seek medical advice.

For further guidance see HSE construction information sheets No. 36 & 37