



Safety Recommendations

Recommended practices to minimize exposure and effects of shavings from fiberglass pipe.

Engineering Controls

- A fabrication area should be set up in which to perform as much of the fabrication work as is practical or possible.
- Local exhaust ventilation should be provided at areas of cutting and/or tapering to remove airborne dust and fibers. General dilution ventilation should be provided as necessary to keep airborne dust and fibers below the applicable exposure limits and guidelines. The need for ventilation systems should be evaluated by a professional industrial hygienist.
- Work area should be kept clean, including floor or other horizontal surfaces. Rinsing with water or sweeping with brushes or brooms (using floor sweep) is recommended. **Never** use compressed air to clean area or to remove dust for personal cleaning. Brushes should be used to remove residue from shaved surfaces.

Personal Protection



Essential safety wear includes eye protection, dust mask and clean cotton gloves (right).

- Always refer to the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) prior to working with unfamiliar materials or if there are questions concerning the contents of the fiberglass pipe.
- OSHA regulates glasswool (fiberglass) under the Hazard Communication Standard and as a chemical hazard in laboratories. OSHA classifies glasswool fiber as a "Particulate Not Otherwise Regulated," with a workplace permissible exposure limit (PEL) of 5.0 mg/m³ for respirable dust and 15.0 mg/m³ for total dust. These limits are identical to those OSHA requires for construction workers exposed to fibrous glass, which were adopted from the 1970 Threshold Limit Values (TLVs) of the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH).
- Barrier creme should be applied to the skin in areas which may be exposed to shavings prior to beginning work.
- Clean clothes should be worn each day. Do not wear clothing that has not been laundered to begin a work shift. More frequent changing may be required by conditions.
- Long sleeved shirts or worksuits should be used. Tape should be used at sleeve opening.
- Cotton or flannel shirts under workshirts may be worn to prevent rubbing of skin at opening of worksuit.
- Gloves with elastic cuffs should be worn at all times. Replace worn or contaminated gloves as necessary. Gloves with flared, stiff cuffs act as a gathering funnel for shavings.
- Pant legs should be worn outside work boots. If necessary for safety purposes, the pant legs can be taped to fit closely to the boot. Over-the-calf socks can be used to prevent chafing of the boot on the skin.

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Personal Protection (cont'd)

- Wristbands and watches should be removed to prevent rubbing or accumulation of particles on skin underneath the band.
- A respirator should be used if ventilation is unavailable, or is inadequate for keeping dust and fiber levels below the applicable exposure limits. To protect against dust and fibers, use a NIOSH-certified disposable or reusable particulate respirator with an efficiency rating of N95 or higher (42 CFR 84) when working with this product. For exposures up to five times the established exposure limits use a quarter-mask respirator, rated N95 or higher; and for exposures up to ten times the established exposure limits use a half-mask respirator (e.g., MSA's DM-11, Racal's Delta N95, 3M's 8210), rated N95 or higher. Operations such as sawing, blowing, tear out and spraying may generate airborne fiber concentrations requiring a higher level of respiratory protection. For exposures up to 50 times the established exposure limits use a full-face respirator, rated N99 or higher.
- **Special Consideration for Repair/Maintenance of Contaminated Equipment:** Use personal protective equipment as discussed above. Where possible, vacuum equipment before repair/maintenance to remove excessive dust and loose fibers.

Personal Hygiene

- Wash exposed skin with soap solution (liquid soap preferred) and cool water.
- Use washcloth with "brushing" motion to remove dust or fibers. **Do not** scrub the skin. This could result in the fibers being imbedded into the skin.
- Rinse thoroughly with clean, cold water.
- Apply lotion or creme to skin (non-detergent formulas such as baby lotion) to soothe irritation or prevent further immediate irritation.

For more information, contact:

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