

**silka**



**Health and safety  
data sheet for  
SILKAFIX  
thin joint mortar**



**xella**



# Health and safety data sheet for SILKAFIX thin joint mortar



## Authority

Issued under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, the Consumer Protection Act 1987 and Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002.

Name of company

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Belgium

## Composition

SILKAFIX is a thin joint mortar. SILKAFIX is made of a sand-mixture with a small quantity of cellulose derivatives and organic and inorganic additives and Vinyl acetate.

## Application

SILKAFIX is a thin joint mortar for use with Ytong blocks and panels.

## Hazard identification

SILKAFIX should be treated in the same way as ordinary Portland Cement, which when mixed with water can cause alkali burns. Irritating to eyes, respiratory system and skin.

Caution, wet floors on which this powder is spilt may become very slippery. Risk of dust explosion in sufficient oxygen and dust concentration conditions (LEL 15 g/m<sup>3</sup>). Avoid breathing dust.

## First aid measures

*Skin:* Wash immediately with plenty of soap and water. Remove contaminated clothing and wash before reuse. Seek medical advice if skin irritation develops.

*Eyes:* Rinse immediately with water for at least 10 minutes. If irritation persists seek medical advice.

*Ingestion:* Do not induce vomiting. Drink plenty of water and seek medical advice.

*Inhalation:* Remove to fresh air, rest and keep warm. If nose or airways become inflamed seek medical advice.

## Fire fighting measures

SILKAFIX is non-flammable. Use a fire extinguisher suitable for the surrounding fire. By-products due to fire are carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, steam and smoke. All fire extinguisher types are

suitable for use on this product, however it may be necessary to carry out a fire risk assessment to identify other potential hazards that may arise from the use of any particular type of fire extinguisher in relation to other hazards or conditions present. If in doubt, assistance should be sought from the local Fire Service.

Dust concentrations of 15 g/m<sup>3</sup> (Lower Explosive Limit) and above create a risk of explosion when an ignition source or static electrical charge is introduced to the atmosphere, and conditions should be avoided that allow heat (e.g. from welding), sparks or flame (including smoking) to be introduced into an atmosphere where dusts exist.



**Accidental release**

Spillages should be either vacuum collected or dampened before physical recovery avoiding dust generation. Do not allow disposal into drains or sewers. Contaminated materials should not be used and should be safely disposed of according to local authority regulations.

Dust particles may also arise from handling packaged products or spillages and may cause irritation if allowed to enter the eyes, respiratory tract or contact with the skin. Where dust arises in the atmosphere, suitable eye, face, hand, respiratory and body protection should be employed by all persons involved in the operation, and the area ventilated so far as is reasonably practicable. Correct hygiene procedures should be followed before taking food, drink or smoking.

**Handling and storage**

The product should be stored under cover, and where shrink-wrapping is not present should be covered with a tarpaulin or polythene sheeting. Handling and storage areas should be dry, well-ventilated and dust levels kept to a minimum by regularly removing any dust build-up. Make provisions for disposal of paper and polythene in accordance with local authority regulations.

A 25 kg bag should be mixed with 6 litres of tap water, and adjusted for workability. The product has a shelf-life of 6 months from the date printed on the bag, stock should be rotated to ensure use within this period.



**Exposure controls / personal protection**

<p><b>Workplace Exposure Limit (WEL)</b></p>	<p>10 mg/m<sup>3</sup> total inhalable dust, 4 mg/m<sup>3</sup> respirable dust based on 8 hour TWA. Refer to current EH 40 from the HSE for further guidance.</p>
<p><b>Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)</b></p>	<p>Suitable personal protective equipment, e.g. safety footwear, head, eye, face, hand and respiratory protection, should always be used.</p>

### Physical and chemical properties

Form	Free flowing solid (powder), in 25 kg bags
Colour	Light grey
Odour	None
pH	12 – 13 when mixed according to instructions
Bulk density	80 kg/m <sup>3</sup> up to 2.200 kg/m <sup>3</sup> approx.
Solubility	Soluble in water, insoluble in most polar solvents
Autoflammability	360 °C (dust)
Lower explosive limit (LEL)	15 g/m <sup>3</sup> (dust)

### Stability and reactivity

SILKAFIX is chemically stable. No hazardous chemicals are known to be formed during use of this product. Avoid damp conditions during storage.

### Toxicological information

Skin: SILKAFIX may cause alkali burns to skin when product is wetted during normal application. Prolonged direct contact with skin may cause severe alkali burns. Cement-based products may, until set, cause both irritant and allergic contact dermatitis. Irritant contact dermatitis is due to a combination of the wetness, alkalinity and abrasive nature of the constituent materials. Allergic contact

dermatitis is caused mainly by the sensitivity of an individual's skin to chromium VI.

Eyes: irritant and may burn eye tissue. Ingestion: contact with saliva may cause alkali burns to lips and mouth. Inhalation: may cause inflammation of the mucous membranes

### Ecological information

Overall environmental impact is regarded as insignificant. However, the addition of cements to water causes the pH to rise and may therefore be toxic to aquatic life in some circumstances. SILKAFIX is soluble in water. SILKAFIX causes no long-term ecological problem, it is slowly biodegradable.

### Disposal considerations

Dispose of surplus material and packaging via authorised waste contractor in accordance with local authority regulations. Do not allow to enter ground water, rivers, drainage and sewage systems.

### Transport information

Treat as non-hazardous product. Product should be sheeted or supplied in covered vehicles. UN No: none, IMO Classification: none, ADR Classification: none, IATA Classification: none.

### Regulatory information

Irritant. Risk and Safety Phrases: R 36/38 Irritating to eyes and skin. S 2 Keep out of reach of children. S 24/25 Avoid contact with eyes and skin.



# What you should know



This data sheet does not constitute or serve as a substitute for the user's own assessment of the risks of using this product in the workplace. It is the purchaser's responsibility to ensure that the date given in this sheet is brought to the attention of anyone in their employ who are to handle or use this product. The advice given herein applies only when the product is used for the stated application.



Construction (design and management) regulations:  
The following information is provided to assist clients, designers, planning supervisors and contractors in the discharge of their respective duties under the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 1994.

For the purposes of formulating the Health and Safety Plan or File, it should be noted that the product is described as SILKAFIX (thin joint mortar).

SILKAFIX (packed in 25 kg bags) is delivered to site by road vehicles, for which suitable access and egress should be available. Where such access and egress is not available, deliveries will be made to the nearest available suitable location, subject to agreement with the client.

Storage: SILKAFIX bags may be stacked on suitable hard and level surfaces to a maximum height of 2 bags. If bags are palletised they should not be stacked more than 2 pallets high. Consideration should also be given to the handling equipment to be employed on site as to its suitability for the terrain and its safety limits in respect of load. Hand operated pallet trucks are generally not suitable unless pallets specific for this purpose are employed and loads do not exceed the limits of the pallet truck or its operator(s) in handling the load.

Care should be taken when opening packs that are wrapped or banded, to ensure that items do not fall or otherwise endanger persons handling or near them. All SILKAFIX bags are polythene lined and are either coded or dated, and the SILKAFIX should be used within 6 months of the date of manufacture. All waste packaging materials should be disposed of in accordance with local regulations.



Handling: SILKAFIX bags should be handled in accordance with the Manual Handling Regulations 1992 (as amended). This concludes that there is a high risk of injury to individuals repetitively handling loads in excess of 25 kg manually. Where individuals are required to repetitively manually handle loads of 25 kg or more, mechanical handling equipment should be employed to reduce risk of injury. Consideration should also be given to the handling equipment to be employed (see Storage above).

All persons are reminded that a suitable and sufficient assessment of risks must be made of all tasks to be carried out in accordance with the relevant Statutory and Regulatory requirements.

## **Other information**

Xella's technical staff are on hand to render assistance with written or telephone enquiries.

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