



**SECTION 1**  
**CHEMICAL PRODUCT AND IDENTIFICATION**

United States Gypsum Company  
550 West Adams Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60661-3637  
A Subsidiary of USG Corporation

Product Safety: 1 (800) 507-8899  
[www.usg.com](http://www.usg.com)  
Version Date: January 1, 2011  
Version: 7

**PRODUCT(S)**     ROCKLATH® Plaster Base

**CHEMICAL FAMILY /  
GENERAL CATEGORY**     Wallboard

**SYNONYMS**             Gypsum Panels, Drywall

**SECTION 2**  
**HAZARD IDENTIFICATION**

**EMERGENCY OVERVIEW:**  
**ΔWARNING!**

This product is not expected to produce any unusual hazards during normal use. Exposure to high dust levels may irritate the skin, eyes, nose, throat, or upper respiratory tract. This product does not present an inhalation, ingestion, or contact health hazard unless subjected to operations such as sawing, sanding or machining which result in the generation of airborne particulate. This product contains quartz (crystalline silica) as a naturally occurring contaminant.

**POTENTIAL HEALTH EFFECTS** (See Section 11 for more information)

**ACUTE :**

Inhalation	Exposure to dust generated during the handling or use of the product may cause temporary irritation to eyes, skin, nose, throat, 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. Labored breathing may occur after excessive inhalation. If respiratory symptoms persist, consult physician.
Eyes	Dust can cause temporary mechanical irritation of eyes. If burning, redness, itching, pain or other symptoms persist or develop, consult physician.
Skin	None known.
Ingestion	None known.

**CHRONIC:**

Inhalation	The concentration of respirable crystalline silica measured in bulk samples of USG gypsum was less than 0.1 Wt.%. Industrial hygiene testing, following the NIOSH Method 7500, did not detect respirable crystalline silica in dust created during the cutting of USG gypsum wallboard panels by both the recommended score and snap technique and with the use of a power saw in a 10ft by 10ft room. Panels do not release respirable dust in their installed state and therefore do not present any known health hazards when installed and properly maintained. 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. Prolonged and repeated exposure to airborne free respirable crystalline silica can result in lung disease (i.e., silicosis) and/or lung cancer. The development of silicosis may increase the risks of additional health effects. The risk of developing silicosis is dependent upon the exposure intensity and duration.
------------	--



# MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

## ROCKLATH® Plaster Base

MSDS #54-001-003

Page 2 of 9

Eyes	None known.
Skin	None known.
Ingestion	None known.

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

**PRIMARY ROUTES OF ENTRY:** Inhalation, eyes and skin contact.

**CARCINOGENICITY CLASSIFICATION OF INGREDIENT(S)** All substances listed are associated with the nature of the raw materials used in the manufacture of this product and are not independent components of the product formulation. All substances, if present, are at levels well below regulatory limits. See Section 11: Toxicology Information for detailed information.

MATERIAL	IARC	NTP	ACGIH	CAL- 65
Crystalline silica	1	1	A2	Listed
FibrousGlass/Continuous Filament	3	2	A4	Not Listed

IARC - International Agency for Research on Cancer: 1- Carcinogenic to humans; 2A – Probably carcinogenic to humans; 2B – Possibly carcinogenic to humans; 3 - Not classifiable as a carcinogen; 4 – Probably not a carcinogen

NTP – National Toxicology Program (Health and Human Services Dept., Public Health Service, NIH/NIEHS): 1- Known to be carcinogen; 2- Anticipated to be carcinogens

ACGIH – American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists: A1 – Confirmed human carcinogen; A2 – Suspected human carcinogen; A3 – Animal carcinogen; A4 - Not classifiable as a carcinogen; A5 – Not suspected as a human carcinogen

CAL-65 – California Proposition 65 “Chemicals known to the State of California to Cause Cancer”

Respirable crystalline silica: IARC: Group 1 carcinogen, NTP: Known human carcinogen. The weight percent of crystalline silica given represents total quartz and not the respirable fraction. The weight percent of respirable silica has not been measured in this product.

**POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:** Toxicity studies of gypsum performed with fish, aquatic invertebrates and aquatic plants showed no toxic effect. (See Section 12 for more information.)

### SECTION 3 COMPOSITION, INFORMATION ON INGREDIENTS

MATERIAL	WT%	CAS #
Gypsum or Calcium Sulfate Dihydrate (CaSO <sub>4</sub> •2H <sub>2</sub> O)	>85	13397-24-5/10101-41-4
Cellulose	<10	9004-34-6
Starch	<3	9005-25-8
Crystalline Silica	<5	14808-60-7 <sup>^</sup>
May Contain:		[ ]
Fibrous Glass (Continuous Filament)	<1	65997-17-3#

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

<sup>^</sup>The weight percent for silica represents total quartz and not the respirable fraction.

#As manufactured, continuous filament glass fibers are not respirable. Continuous filaments that are chopped, crushed, or severely mechanically processed during manufacture or use may contain very small amounts of respirable particulates.



**SECTION 4  
FIRST AID MEASURES**

**FIRST AID PROCEDURES**

Inhalation	Remove to fresh air. Leave the area of exposure and remain away until coughing and other symptoms subside. Other measures are usually not necessary, however if conditions warrant, contact physician.
Eyes	In case of contact, do not rub or scratch your eyes. To prevent mechanical irritation, flush thoroughly with water for 15 minutes. If irritation persists, consult physician.
Skin	Wash with mild soap and water. If irritation persists, consult physician.
Ingestion	This product is not intended to be ingested or eaten. If gastric disturbance occurs, call physician.

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

**NOTES TO PHYSICIAN:** Treatment should be directed at the control of symptoms and the clinical condition.

**SECTION 5  
FIRE FIGHTING MEASURES**

<b>General Fire Hazards</b>	None known		
<b>Extinguishing Media</b>	Water or use extinguishing media appropriate for surrounding fire.		
<b>Special Fire Fighting Procedures</b>	Wear appropriate personal protective equipment. See section 8.		
<b>Unusual Fire/ Explosion Hazards</b>	None known		
<b>Hazardous Combustion Products</b>	None known		
<b>Flash Point</b>	Not Determined	<b>Auto Ignition</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Method Used</b>	Not Applicable	<b>Flammability Classification</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Upper Flammable Limit (UFL)</b>	Not Determined		
<b>Lower Flammable Limit (LFL)</b>	Not Determined	<b>Rate of Burning</b>	Not Applicable

**SECTION 6  
ACCIDENTAL RELEASE MEASURES**

**CONTAINMENT:** Collect panels from spillage and if not damaged or contaminated by foreign material, panels may be reclaimed.

**CLEAN-UP:** Use normal clean up procedures. No special precautions.

**DISPOSAL:** Follow all local, state, provincial and federal regulations. Never discharge large releases directly into sewers or surface waters.



**SECTION 7  
 HANDLING AND STORAGE**

**HANDLING:** Avoid dust contact with eyes and skin. Wear the appropriate eye and skin protection against dust (See Section 8). Minimize dust generation and accumulation. Avoid breathing dust. Wear the appropriate respiratory protection against dust in poorly ventilated areas and if TLV is exceeded (see Sections 2 and 8). Use good safety and industrial hygiene practices. When moving board with a forklift or similar equipment, it is essential that the equipment be rated capable of handling the loads. The forks should always be long enough to extend completely through the width of the load. Fork spacing between supports should be one half the length of the panels or base being handled so that a maximum of 4' extends beyond the supports on either end.

Follow traditional building practices; such as management of water away from the interior of the structure to avoid the growth of mold, mildew and fungus. Remove any building products suspected of being exposed to sustained moisture and considered conducive to mold growth from the jobsite.

Gypsum panels are very heavy awkward loads posing the risk of severe back injury. Use proper lifting techniques.

**STORAGE:** Store in a cool, dry, ventilated area away from sources of heat, moisture and incompatibilities (see Section 10). Protect product from physical damage.

Protect from weather and prevent exposure to sustained moisture.

Gypsum Association literature recommends storing board flat to avoid damaging edges, warping the board and the potential safety hazards of the board falling over. However, in other situations, storing the board flat may cause a tripping hazard or exceed floor limit loads. If stacking board vertically, leave at least 4 inches from the wall to decrease the risk of falling board and no more than 6 inches to avoid too much lateral weight against the wall.

**SECTION 8  
 EXPOSURE CONTROLS/PERSONAL PROTECTION**

MATERIAL	WT%	TLV (mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	PEL( mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
Gypsum or Calcium Sulfate Dihydrate (CaSO <sub>4</sub> •2H <sub>2</sub> O)	>85	10	15 (T) / 5 (R)
Cellulose	<10	10	15 (T) / 5 (R)
Starch	<3	10	15 (T) / 5 (R)
Crystalline Silica	<5	0.025 (R)	0.1 (R)
May Contain:		[	]
Fibrous Glass (Continuous Filament)	<1	1 f/cc (R) *	15 (T) / 5 (R)

(T)–Total; (R)–Respirable; (NE)–Not Established; (C)–Ceiling; (STEL)–Short-term exposure limit

(F)–Fume; (Du)–Dust; (M)–Mist

ppm–part per million; f/cc–fiber per cubic centimeter; mppcf– million particles per cubic foot

\*ACGIH: 1 fiber/cubic centimeter air for fibers longer than 5 micrometers and thinner than 3 micrometers. Continuous filaments that are chopped, crushed, or severely mechanically processed during manufacture or use may contain very small amounts of respirable particulates [PEL = 5 mg/m<sup>3</sup>(R)].

**ENGINEERING CONTROLS:** Provide ventilation sufficient to control airborne dust levels. If user operations generate airborne dust, use ventilation to keep dust concentrations below permissible exposure limits. Where general ventilation is inadequate, use process enclosures, local exhaust ventilation, or other engineering controls to control dust levels below permissible exposure limits.



# MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

## ROCKLATH® Plaster Base

MSDS #54-001-003

Page 5 of 9

**RESPIRATORY PROTECTION:** Wear a NIOSH/MSHA-approved respirator equipped with particulate cartridges when dusty in poorly ventilated areas, and if TLV is exceeded. A respiratory program that meets OSHA's 29 CFR 1910.134 and ANSI Z88.2 requirements must be followed whenever workplace conditions warrant a respirator's use. If engineering controls are not possible, wear a properly fitted NIOSH/MSHA-approved particulate respirator.

### OTHER PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT:

Eye/Face	Wear eye protection, safety glasses or goggles, to avoid possible eye contact.
Skin	Wear gloves and protective clothing to prevent repeated or prolonged skin contact.
General	Selection of Personal Protective Equipment will depend on environmental working conditions and operations.

## SECTION 9 PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

Appearance	Paper with gray to off white core	Vapor Density (Air = 1)	Not Applicable
Odor	Low to no odor	Specific Gravity (H <sub>2</sub> O = 1)	2.32 – 2.96
Odor Threshold	Not Determined	Solubility in water (g/100g)	0.26/100g
Physical State	Solid	Partition Coefficient	Not Applicable
pH @ 25 ° C	~ 7	Auto-ignition Temp	Not Determined
Melting Point	Not Applicable	Decomposition Temp	2650°F/1450°C
Freezing Point	Not Applicable	Viscosity	Not Applicable
Boiling Point	Not Applicable	Particle Size	Varies
Flash Point	Not Determined	Bulk Density	~ 55 lb/ft <sup>3</sup>
Evaporation Rate (BuAc = 1)	Not Applicable	Molecular Weight	~ 172
Upper Flammable Limit (UFL)	Not Determined	VOC Content	Zero g/L
Lower Flammable Limit (LFL)	Not Determined	Percent Volatile	Zero
Vapor Pressure (mm Hg)	Not Applicable		

## SECTION 10 CHEMICAL STABILITY AND REACTIVITY

STABILITY	Stable.
CONDITIONS TO AVOID	Contact with incompatibles (see below).
INCOMPATIBILITY	None known.
HAZARDOUS POLYMERIZATION	None known.
HAZARDOUS DECOMPOSITION	None known.

## SECTION 11 TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION



**ACUTE EFFECTS:** The acute oral toxicity study [OECD TG 420] of calcium sulfate dihydrate showed that this chemical did not cause any changes even at 2,000 mg/kg b.w. Therefore, the oral LD50 value was more than 2,000-mg/kg b.w. for female rats. Gypsum paste applied experimentally to the eyes of rabbits was not an irritant. Gypsum dust particulate has shown an irritant action on mucous membranes of the respiratory tract and eyes. The sulfate ion has caused gastro-intestinal disturbance in humans following large oral doses. Limited studies involving the repeated inhalation of an (unspecified) calcium sulfate failed to identify any particular target organs in monkeys, rats and hamsters. No evidence of mutagenicity was found in Ames bacterial tests.

**CHRONIC EFFECTS / CARCINOGENICITY:** Panels do not release respirable dust in their installed state and therefore do not present any known health hazards when installed and properly maintained.

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 may not have been measured in this product. Prolonged and repeated exposure to airborne free respirable crystalline silica can result in lung disease (i.e., silicosis) and/or lung cancer. The development of silicosis may increase the risks of additional health effects. Smoking in combination with silica exposures increases the risk of cancer. The risk of developing silicosis is dependent upon the exposure intensity and duration.

In June, 1997, 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 studied. 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).

**SECTION 12**  
**ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION**

**ENVIRONMENTAL TOXICITY:** This product has no known adverse effect on ecology. Toxicity studies of gypsum performed with fish, aquatic invertebrates and aquatic plants showed no toxic effect.

<b>Ecotoxicity value</b>	Not determined.
--------------------------	-----------------

**SECTION 13**  
**DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS**

**WASTE DISPOSAL METHOD:** Dispose of material in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations. Never discharge directly into sewers or surface waters. Consult with environmental regulatory agencies for guidance on acceptable disposal practices.

**SECTION 14**  
**TRANSPORT INFORMATION**

**U.S. DOT INFORMATION:** Not a hazardous material per DOT shipping requirements. Not classified or regulated.

<b>Shipping Name</b>	Same as product name.
----------------------	-----------------------

<b>Hazard Class</b>	Not classified.
---------------------	-----------------



# MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

## ROCKLATH® Plaster Base

MSDS #54-001-003

Page 7 of 9

<b>UN/NA #</b>	None. Not classified.
<b>Packing Group</b>	None.
<b>Label (s) Required</b>	Not applicable.
<b>GGVSec/MDG-Code</b>	Not classified.
<b>ICAO/IATA-DGR</b>	Not applicable.
<b>RID/ADR</b>	None.
<b>ADNR</b>	None.

### SECTION 15 REGULATORY INFORMATION

#### UNITED STATES REGULATIONS

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

MATERIAL	WT%	3 0 2	3 0 4	3 1 3	CERCLA	CAA Sec. 112	RCRA Code
Gypsum or Calcium Sulfate Dihydrate (CaSO <sub>4</sub> •2H <sub>2</sub> O)	>85	NL	NL	NL	NL	NL	NL
Cellulose	<10	NL	NL	NL	NL	NL	NL
Starch	<3	NL	NL	NL	NL	NL	NL
Crystalline Silica	<5	NL	NL	NL	NL	NL	NL
May Contain:		[					]
Fibrous Glass (Continuous Filament)	<1	NL	NL	NL	NL	NL	NL

Key: NL = Not Listed

SARA Title III Section 302 (EPCRA) Extremely Hazardous Substances: Threshold Planning Quantity (TPQ)

SARA Title III Section 304 (EPCRA) Extremely Hazardous Substances: Reportable Quantity (RQ)

SARA Title III Section 313 (EPCRA) Toxic Chemicals: X= Subject to reporting under section 313

CERCLA Hazardous Substances: Reportable Quantity (RQ)

CAA Section 112 (r) Regulated Chemicals for Accidental Release Prevention: Threshold Quantities(TQ)

RCRA Hazardous Waste: RCRA hazardous waste code

#### CANADIAN REGULATIONS

This product has been classified in accordance with the hazard criteria of Controlled Product regulations and the MSDS contains all the information required by the Controlled Products Regulations. All ingredients of this product are included in the Canadian Domestic Substances List (DSL).

MATERIAL	WT%	IDL Item #	WHMIS Classification
Gypsum or Calcium Sulfate Dihydrate (CaSO <sub>4</sub> •2H <sub>2</sub> O)	>85	Not Listed	Not Listed
Cellulose	<10	Not Listed	Not Listed
Starch	<3	Not Listed	Not Listed
Crystalline Silica	<5	1406	D2A
May Contain:		[	]
Fibrous Glass (Continuous Filament)	<1	Not Listed	Not Listed



# MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

## ROCKLATH® Plaster Base

MSDS #54-001-003

Page 8 of 9

IDL Item#: Canadian Hazardous Products Act – Ingredient Disclosure List Item #

WHMIS Classification: Workplace Hazardous Material Information System

**Risk and Safety Phrases defined by European Union Directive 67/548/EEC (Annex III and IV)**

R-Phrase(s): R36/37/38

S-Phrase(s): S51 S38 S39

### SECTION 16 OTHER INFORMATION

**Label Information****Δ WARNING!**

Dust can cause irritation to eyes, skin and respiratory tract. Wear eye, skin and respiratory protection as necessary per working conditions. If eye contact occurs flush with water for 15 minutes. Do not ingest. If ingested, call physician. If cutting board with a power tool, use a wet or vacuum saw to reduce the amount of dust generated. Panels are heavy and can fall over, causing serious injury or death. Avoid creating a tripping hazard and do not exceed floor limit loads. Product safety information: 800-507-8899 or usg.com. Customer Service: 800 USG-4-YOU (800 874-4968). KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN.

## INFORMATION FOR HANDLING AND IDENTIFICATION OF CHEMICAL HAZARDS

NFPA Ratings:			HMIS Ratings:		<b>HEALTH</b> * <b>1</b>	0 = Minimal Hazard
Health:	1		Health:	1	<b>FLAMMABILITY</b> <b>0</b>	1 = Slight Hazard
Fire:	0		Fire:	0	<b>PHYSICAL HAZARD</b> <b>0</b>	2 = Moderate Hazard
Reactivity:	0		Reactivity:	0	<b>PERSONAL PROTECTION</b> <b>E</b>	3 = Serious Hazard
						4 = Severe Hazard

E – Safety glasses, gloves and dust respirator; \* - Contains silica

**Key/Legend**

ANSI	American National Standards Institute
ACGIH	American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists
CAA	Clean Air Act
CAS	Chemical Abstracts Service (Registry Number)
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DOT	United States Department of Transportation
DSL	Canadian Domestic Substances List
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
EPCRA	Emergency Planning & Community Right-to-know Act
HMIS	Hazardous Materials Identification System
IARC	International Agency for Research on Cancer
MSHA	Mine Safety and Health Administration
NDSL	Canadian Non-Domestic Substances List
NFPA	National Fire Protection Association



# MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

## ROCKLATH® Plaster Base

MSDS #54-001-003

Page 9 of 9

NIOSH	National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
OSHA	Occupational Health and Safety Administration
PEL	Permissible Exposure Limit
PPE	Personal Protection Equipment
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
SARA	Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986
TLV	Threshold Limit Value
TSCA	Toxic Substances Control Act
UN/NA#	United Nations/North America number
WHMIS	Workplace Hazardous Material Information System

Prepared by:  
Product Safety  
USG Corporation  
550 West Adams Street  
Chicago, IL 60661-3637

The information contained in this document applies to this specific material as supplied. It may not be valid for this material if it is used in combination with any other materials. It is the user's responsibility to satisfy oneself as to the suitability and completeness of this information for his/her own particular use.

**END**