



# MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

## LEVELROCK™ Floor Underlayment 4500

MSDS NO. 05372

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United States Gypsum Company  
125 South Franklin Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60606-4678

Product Safety: 1 (800) 507-8899  
Version Date: April 13, 2000  
Version 2

### SECTION I PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION

**PRODUCT(S):** LEVELROCK™ Floor Underlayment 4500

**CHEMICAL FAMILY:** Mixture of Calcium Sulfate Hemihydrate (plaster of paris,  $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot \frac{1}{2}\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) and Portland Cement

### SECTION II INGREDIENTS

MATERIAL	WT%	TLV (mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	PEL (mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	CAS NUMBER
Plaster of Paris	>85	10	15(T)/5(R)	26499-65-0
Portland Cement	<10	10	15(T)/5(R)	65997-15-1
Crystalline Silica	<5	0.1(R)	0.1(R)	14808-60-7

(T) – Total (R) – Respirable

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

### INFORMATION FOR HANDLING AND IDENTIFICATION OF CHEMICAL HAZARDS

NFPA Ratings: Health: 1 Fire: 0 Reactivity: 0 Other: N/A  
HMIS Ratings: Health: 1 Fire: 0 Reactivity: 0  
Personal Protection: Use eye and skin protection. Use NIOSH/MSHA-approved respiratory protection when necessary.  
0 = Minimal Hazard 1 = Slight Hazard 2 = Moderate Hazard 3 = Serious Hazard 4 = Severe Hazard

### SECTION III PHYSICAL DATA

**Appearance and Odor:** Gray powder; low odor.  
**Melting Point:** 1450°C – decomposes  
**Solubility In Water:** Less than 0.2%  
**Specific Gravity (H<sub>2</sub>O=1):** 2.7-3.0  
**pH:** 12  
**Hardening Time:** 50-80 minutes

### SECTION IV FIRE AND EXPLOSION HAZARD DATA

**Flash Point (Method Used):** Non-combustible.  
**Extinguishing Media:** Use extinguishing media appropriate for surrounding fire.  
**Special Fire Fighting Procedures:** None  
**Unusual Fire and Explosion Hazards:** None



**SECTION V**  
**HEALTH HAZARD DATA**

Both portland cement and plaster of paris are considered nuisance dusts. The primary hazard with portland cement is its alkalinity (pH 12).

This product can release nuisance dust in handling or during use. Eye, skin, nose, throat, and upper respiratory irritation can occur with prolonged dust exposures.

**EFFECTS OF OVEREXPOSURE:**

**ACUTE:**

**EYES:** Portland cement is a strongly alkaline material. Contact with eyes will cause irritation and possible corrosion damage, burning, and corneal edema. Particulates will also cause mechanical irritation.

**SKIN:** When mixed with water, this material hardens and then slowly becomes hot. **DO NOT** attempt to make a cast enclosing any part of the body. Failure to follow these instructions can cause severe burns that may require surgical removal of affected tissue or amputation of limb. Because of the high alkalinity of portland cement, burns can occur 12 to 48 hours after exposures of 1 to 6 hours. Burns may occur without obvious pain at the time of exposure. Portland cement in dry form will not cause an alkaline burn by itself. But because of the direct, prolonged or repeated contact with the skin it can cause irritation. Rubbing of this product against the skin can result in abrasions. Rinse with water until free of material to avoid abrasions, then wash skin thoroughly with soap and water. Can cause mechanical irritation to skin, especially in sensitive individuals. May dry skin. If irritation persists, consult physician.

**INHALATION:** Irritating and may be corrosive to respiratory tract. Inhalation of dusts from this product can irritate the nose, throat, lungs, 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 from dust. Labored breathing may occur after excessive inhalation. Remove subject to fresh air. If respiratory symptoms persist (irritation, cough, nausea, dizziness, etc.), consult physician.

**INGESTION:** If ingested, caustic burns may occur in the mouth, esophagus, or stomach. May be corrosive to the digestive tract. Plaster of paris is nontoxic; however, ingestion of a sufficient quantity could lead to mechanical obstruction of the gut, especially the pyloric region. See Emergency and First Aid - Ingestion below.

**CHRONIC:**

**INHALATION:** Bronchitis and emphysema have been reported after many years of exposure to portland cement. Prolonged and repeated exposure to respirable crystalline silica can result in lung disease (i.e., Silicosis) and/or lung cancer.

**EYES:** Conjunctivitis and Keratitis.

**SKIN:** Dermatitis.

**INGESTION:** Burns to esophagus and stomach.

**EMERGENCY AND FIRST AID PROCEDURES:**

**EYES:** Immediately flush eyes thoroughly with large amounts of water for 30 minutes, including under upper and lower lids. Get medical attention immediately. Contact lenses should not be worn when working with portland cement.

**SKIN:** Promptly wash thoroughly with copious amounts of water for at least 15 minutes or longer, depending on the concentration, amount and duration of exposure. If irritation or pain persists after washing, see physician. If cement penetrates the clothing, promptly remove the clothing and wash the skin. Wash clothing before wearing again.

**INHALATION:** Remove to fresh air. Leave the area of dust exposure and remain away until coughing and other symptoms subside. Other measures are usually not necessary, however if conditions warrant, contact physician.

**INGESTION:** et medical attention immediately. Portland cement is highly alkaline (pH ~12) and may cause burns to the esophagus and stomach. The use of diluents is controversial and neutralization is contraindicated. This product contains gypsum plaster. Plaster of paris hardens when wetted and, if ingested, may result in obstruction of the gut, especially the pyloric region.

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

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

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



**CARCINOGENICITY OF INGREDIENTS:**

<b>MATERIAL</b>	<b>IARC</b>	<b>NTP</b>
Crystalline Silica	Group 1	Anticipated

The average concentration of respirable crystalline silica measured in USG plaster of paris was less than 0.1 Wt.%. In June 1997, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (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 VI**  
**REACTIVITY DATA**

<b>STABILITY:</b>	Stable
<b>INCOMPATIBILITY:</b>	None known
<b>HAZARDOUS POLYMERIZATION:</b>	Will not occur
<b>HAZARDOUS DECOMPOSITION:</b>	Above 1450°C could produce CaO and SO <sub>2</sub>

**SECTION VII**  
**SPILL OR LEAK PROCEDURES**

**STEPS TO BE TAKEN IN CASE MATERIAL IS RELEASED OR SPILLED:**

Sweep up, material from spillage into a waste container for disposal. Do not flush down drains. If washed down, may plug drains. If already mixed with water, scrape up and place in container. Avoid dusting conditions, minimize airborne dust. Wear appropriate protective equipment.

**WASTE DISPOSAL METHOD:**

This material can be disposed of as inert solid in a landfill or by other procedures which are accepted under federal, state and local regulations. Slurry may plug drains.

**SECTION VIII**  
**SPECIAL PROTECTION INFORMATION**

No TLV assigned to this mixture, see Ingredients Section. Minimize exposures in accordance with good hygiene practice.

**RESPIRATORY PROTECTION:**

Wear proper respiratory protection during mixing batches for flooring application and during sanding if floor is sanded. Provide general ventilation and local exhaust ventilation to meet TLV requirements of individual ingredients and to control dusting conditions. Avoid creating dust. Wear a NIOSH/MSHA-approved respirator in poorly ventilated dusty areas and/or if TLV is exceeded.

**VENTILATION:**

Ventilate to keep exposures below TLV. General ventilation is expected to be satisfactory. Use local exhaust ventilation if necessary to control dust.

**PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT:**

Gloves or protective clothing are usually not necessary but may be desirable in specific work situations. Wear gloves and protective clothing to prevent repeated or prolonged skin contact. Wear eye protection (safety glasses or goggles) to avoid corrosion and irritation of the eye.



**SECTION IX**  
**SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS**

**PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN IN HANDLING AND STORAGE:**

During handling wear the appropriate respiratory, eye and skin protection if warranted per environmental conditions. Keep dry. Dew point conditions or other conditions causing presence of liquid will harden this material during storage.

**ΔWARNING!**

When mixed with water, this material hardens and then slowly becomes hot – sometimes quickly. **DO NOT** attempt to make a cast enclosing any part of the body using this material. Failure to follow these instructions can cause severe burns that may require surgical removal of affected tissue or amputation of limb. Dust may cause skin, eye, nose, throat, or respiratory irritation. Avoid dust inhalation and exposure to dust. If dusty, wear a NIOSH/MSHA-approved dust respirator. Use proper ventilation to reduce dust exposure. Portland cement is strongly alkaline and can be corrosive to eyes, skin, and respiratory tract. Wear eye and skin protection. If eye contact occurs, immediately flush thoroughly with water for 15 minutes and get medical attention. Do not ingest. If ingested and any discomfort occurs, call physician. Product safety information: (800) 507-8899.

**KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN.**

END