

## SAFETY DATA SHEET

# General Purpose Cement

## Section 1: Identification of the Material and Supplier

### Company Details

**Cement Australia Pty Limited**

ABN 75 104 053 474

18 Station Avenue  
Darra, Queensland 4076**Tel:** 1300 CEMENT (1300 236 368)**Fax:** 1800 CEMENT (1800 236 368)**Website:** [www.cementaustralia.com.au](http://www.cementaustralia.com.au)**Emergency Contact Number:****Contact Person:** Technical ManagerTelephone: 1300 CEMENT (1300 236 368 - Business Hours) or  
Poisons Information Centre 13 11 26

### Manufacturing Plants

**Gladstone:** Landing Rd, Fisherman's Landing, Gladstone QLD 4680**Brisbane:** 77 Pamela St, Pinkenba QLD 4008**Railton:** Cement Works Rd, Railton, TAS 7305**Port Kembla:** Off Christy Rd, Port Kembla, NSW 2505

### Product

**Name:** **General Purpose Cement (Type GP)****Other Names:** Portland Cement, Shrinkage Limited Cement\*, HE (High Early) Cement\*, Off White Cement, White Cement, Grey Cement, Tradies Own Type GP Cement, Sulfate Resisting Cement\*, Manufacturers Cement**Use:** General Purpose Cement is used as a binder in concrete, concrete masonry, mortar and grouts. It is also used in the manufacture of fibre cement products, in soil stabilisation in building construction and civil engineering projects.  
This SDS reflects the handling of Cement Powder in bulk or bagged form. Adding water to Cement changes the properties and the SDS for those products listed above should be referenced.

\* AS3972 prescribes whether the cement conforms to these specific sub-categories.

For more information call **1300 CEMENT** (1300 236 368)  
or visit [www.cementaustralia.com.au](http://www.cementaustralia.com.au)*Mix it with the best.*

## Section 2: Hazards Identification

### 2.1 Classification



**WARNING**

#### GHS CLASSIFICATION

**Classified as Hazardous** according to the Safe Work Australia guidelines for Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS).

**Not classified as Dangerous Goods** according to the Australian Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail. (7th edition)

#### Hazard Class and Category

**Serious Eye Damage/Eye Irritation: Category 1**

**Skin Corrosion/ Irritation: Category 2A**

**Specific Target Organ Toxicity (Single Exposure): Category 3**

The properties of cement change when water is added and are accounted for in warning labels. See SDS for Wet Cement or Wet Concrete for specific wet substance hazards.

### 2.2 GHS Label elements

#### Pictograms and Signal Words



**WARNING**

#### Hazard Statement(s)

<b>H315</b>	Causes skin irritation.
<b>H318</b>	Causes serious eye damage.
<b>H335</b>	May cause respiratory irritation.

#### Prevention Statement(s)

<b>P101</b>	If medical advice is needed, have product container or label at hand.
<b>P102</b>	Keep out of reach of children.
<b>P103</b>	Read label before use.
<b>P261</b>	Avoid breathing dust/ Dry cement can become easily airborne. Wet surface before cutting to reduce dust emissions/
<b>P264</b>	Wash any skin exposed to the product thoroughly after handling. Do not touch eyes until hands are thoroughly washed clean of material.

- P271** Use only outdoors or in a well-ventilated area.
- P280** Wear protective gloves in accordance with AS2161. Wear dust proof eye protection in accordance with (AS/NZS1337.1).

### Response Statement(s)

- P305+P351+P338** IF IN EYES: Rinse cautiously with water for several minutes. Remove contact lenses, if present and easy to do. Continue rinsing.
- P337 + P313** If eye irritation persists: Get medical advice/attention.
- P302 + P352** IF ON SKIN: Wash with plenty of soap and water.
- P332 + P313** If skin irritation occurs: Get medical advice/attention.
- P304 + P340** IF INHALED: Remove affected person to fresh air and keep at rest in a position comfortable for breathing.
- P310** Immediately call POISON CENTRE 131126 or doctor/physician if you feel unwell.
- P321** Specific treatment is advised - see first aid instructions.
- P362** Take off contaminated clothing and wash before re-use.
- P308+P313** If exposed or concerned: Get medical advice/attention.

### Storage Statement(s)

- P403+P233** Store in a well-ventilated place. Keep container tightly closed.
- P405** Keep container tightly closed. Store locked up.

### Disposal Statement(s)

- P501** Dispose of unused contents or container as normal general waste or in accordance with jurisdictional regulations.

## 2.3 Other hazards

Some susceptible individuals may exhibit an allergic skin response upon exposure to Portland Cement, possibly due to trace amounts of Chromium caused by wet or moist skin or eyes having prolonged contact exposure to dry Portland Cement.

Prolonged exposure to Portland Cement in the wet form can cause serious, potentially irreversible skin or eye damage in the form of chemical burns. The same serious injury can occur if wet or moist skin or eyes have prolonged contact exposure to dry Portland Cement.

## Section 3: Composition/Information on Ingredients

General Purpose Cement consists of a crystalline mass manufactured from substances mined from the earth's crust. It contains trace amounts of naturally occurring, but potentially hazardous chemical entities including metals such as chromium and nickel. All significant constituents listed below:

Chemical Entity	Proportion	CAS Number	EC Number
Portland Clinker	>87%	65997-15-1	266-043-4
Gypsum (CaSO <sub>4</sub> 2H <sub>2</sub> O)	2-5%	10101-41-4	603-783-2
Limestone (CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	0-7.5%	1317-65-3	215-279-6
Calcium Oxide	0-1%	1305-78-8	215-138-9
Hexavalent Chromium Cr (VI)	<10 ppm	18540-29-9	
Total respirable silica	Below reporting limits	14808-60-7	

## Section 4: First Aid Measures

### 4.1 Description of first aid measures

<b>Eyes:</b>	Flush thoroughly with flowing water for 15 minutes to remove all traces. If symptoms such as irritation or redness persist, seek medical attention. If wet cement is splashed in the eye, always treat as above, and seek urgent medical attention.
<b>Inhalation:</b>	Remove affected person to fresh air, away from dusty area. If symptoms persist, seek medical attention.
<b>Skin:</b>	Remove heavily contaminated clothing immediately. Wash material off the skin thoroughly with water. Use a mild soap if available. Shower if necessary. Seek medical attention for persistent irritation or burning of the skin.
<b>Ingestion/Swallowed:</b>	Rinse mouth and lips with water. Do not induce vomiting, get medical attention showing the Safety Data Sheet and the hazard label. If symptoms persist, contact a Poisons Information Centre on 13 11 26 or a doctor.
<b>First Aid Facilities:</b>	Eye wash station. Washing facilities with running water/shower.

### 4.2 Most important symptoms and effects, both acute and delayed.

Irritating to the eyes, skin and respiratory system. Some individuals may exhibit an allergic response upon exposure to this product, possibly due to the trace amounts of chromium present. Hexavalent chromium compounds are classified as carcinogenic to humans (IARC Group 1).

### 4.3 Immediate medical attention and special treatment needed.

Treat as for moderate to strong alkali and symptomatically.

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## Section 5: Fire Fighting Measures

<b>Fire/Explosion Hazard:</b>	None	<b>Special Protective Precautions and equipment for fire fighters:</b>	None required
<b>Hazchem Code:</b>	None allocated		
<b>Flammability:</b>	Not flammable		
<b>Extinguishing Media:</b>	None required		
<b>Hazards from Combustion Products:</b>	None		

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## Section 6: Accidental Release Measures

<b>Spills:</b>	Spills are best cleaned up by vacuum device to avoid generating airborne dust. Recommendations on Exposure Control and Personal Protection should be followed during spill clean-up. Keep product out of storm water and sewer drains. Wetting during clean-up will cause formation of setting cement.
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## Section 7: Handling and Storage

<b>Handling:</b>	When supplied in bags these need to be handled in accordance with Hazardous Manual Tasks Code of Practice.
<b>Storage:</b>	Protect from moisture to prevent hardening. Storage of cement may be in concrete silos, steel bins, or plastic lined multi-ply paper bags.

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## Section 8: Exposure Controls/Personal Protection

### 8.1 Control parameters

#### Exposure standards

Ingredient	Reference	TWA		STEL	
		ppm	mg/m <sup>3</sup>	ppm	mg/m <sup>3</sup>
Calcium carbonate (Limestone, Marble, Whiting)	SWA (AUS)	--	10	--	--
Calcium oxide	SWA (AUS)	--	2	--	--
Chromium (VI) compounds (as Cr)	SWA (AUS)	--	0.05	--	--
Gypsum (Calcium sulphate)	SWA (AUS)	--	10	--	--
Magnesium oxide (fume)	SWA (AUS)	--	10	--	--
Portland Cement	SWA (AUS)	--	10	--	--

### 8.2 Engineering controls

Avoid inhalation. Use in well-ventilated areas. Where an inhalation risk exists, mechanical extraction ventilation is recommended. Maintain dust levels below the recommended exposure standard.

#### PPE

**Eyes / Face:** Wear safety glasses or dust-proof goggles when handling material to avoid contact with eyes.

**Body/Skin:** Wear long sleeved shirt and full-length trousers or coveralls.

**Hands:** Wear PVC, rubber or other gloves compliant to AS2161, when handling material to prevent skin contact.

**Respiratory:** Where an inhalation risk exists wear a Class P1 (Particulate) respirator, dependent on a site-specific risk assessment.

## Section 9: Physical and Chemical Properties

**Appearance:** A fine powder ranging in colour from grey to off-white

**Odour:** No distinctive odour

**Boiling/Melting Point:** Melting point >1200°C

**Vapour Pressure:** Not applicable

**Specific Gravity:** 3.0 – 3.2

**Flash Point:** Non-applicable

**Flammability Limits:** Not applicable

**Solubility in Water:** Slight, reacts on mixing with water forming an alkaline (caustic) solution (pH >11)

**Particle Size:** Up to 50% of the fresh dry material may be respirable (below 10 microns)

## Section 10: Stability and Reactivity

**Chemical Stability:** Chemically stable

**Conditions to Avoid:** Keep free of moisture

**Incompatible Materials:** None

**Hazardous Decomposition Products:** May evolve toxic gases if heated to decomposition.

**Hazardous Reactions:**

A corrosive substance harmful to exposed skin is the result of water addition to the point of creating a paste or slurry. See SDS for Wet Concrete.

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## Section 11: Toxicological Information

General Purpose Cements are stable substances, compatible with most other building materials, will not decompose into hazardous by-products and do not polymerise.

<b>Acute toxicity</b>	No known toxicity data is available for this product. Based on available data, the classification criteria are not met.
<b>Skin</b>	Irritating to the skin. Contact with powder or wetted form may result in irritation, rash and dermatitis. Prolonged exposure to wet cement can cause serious, potentially irreversible skin damage in the form of chemical burns.
<b>Eye</b>	Causes serious eye damage. Contact with moisture in the eyes may result in irritation, lacrimation, pain, redness, conjunctivitis and possible alkaline burns aided by mechanical irritation and abrasion. Exposure to wet cement can cause serious, potentially irreversible eye damage in the form of chemical burns.
<b>Sensitisation</b>	Not classified as causing respiratory sensitisation. Some individuals may exhibit an allergic skin response upon exposure to cement, possibly due to trace amounts of chromium.
<b>Mutagenicity</b>	Insufficient data available to classify as a mutagen.
<b>Carcinogenicity</b>	Hexavalent chromium compounds are also classified as carcinogenic to humans (IARC Group 1). However due to the trace amounts present (< 20 ppm), no adverse effects are expected due to this component. In the wet state, the likelihood of an inhalation hazard is reduced.
<b>Reproductive</b>	Insufficient data available to classify as a reproductive toxin.
<b>STOT - single exposure</b>	Irritating to the respiratory system. Over exposure may result in irritation of the nose and throat, with coughing. High level exposure may result in breathing difficulties.
<b>STOT - repeated exposure</b>	In the wet state, the likelihood of an inhalation hazard is reduced.
<b>Aspiration</b>	This product is a solid and aspiration hazards are not expected to occur

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## Section 12: Ecological Information

<b>Ecotoxicity:</b>	Product forms an alkaline slurry when mixed with water.
<b>Bio accumulative potential:</b>	This product is not expected to bioaccumulate.
<b>Persistence and Degradability:</b>	Product is persistent and would have a low degradability.
<b>Mobility:</b>	A low mobility would be expected in a landfill situation.

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## Section 13: Disposal Considerations

General Purpose Cement can be treated as a common waste for disposal or dumped into a landfill site, in accordance with local authority guidelines.

Keep material out of storm water and sewer drains.

Measures should be taken to prevent dust generation during disposal, and exposure and personal precautions should be observed (see above).

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## Section 14: Transport Information

May be transported by Ship, Rail, Air and Road.

<b>UN Number:</b>	None allocated
<b>Proper Shipping Name:</b>	None allocated
<b>Class and Subsidiary Risk:</b>	None allocated
<b>Packing Group:</b>	None allocated
<b>Special precautions for user:</b>	Avoid generating and breathing dust
<b>Hazchem Code:</b>	None allocated

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## Section 15: Regulatory Information

**General Purpose cement is not classified as Dangerous Goods.**

A poison schedule number has not been allocated to this product using the criteria in the Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Drugs and Poisons (SUSDP).

All chemicals listed on the Australian Inventory of Chemical Substances (AICS).

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## Section 16: Other Information

<b>For further information on this product contact:</b>	<b>Telephone:</b> 1300 CEMENT (1300 236 368 - Business Hours) <b>Facsimile:</b> 1800 CEMENT (1800 236 368)
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### Previous Edition and edits made:

**2014** – GHS Compliance edits made, and supplementary compliance edits added.

**2016** – Adjusting to industry guidelines released in 2018.

**2020** – Format updates

**2022/2023** – Format updates

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**Next Review Date for this MSDS: 31 December 2026.**

## Australian and New Zealand Standards:

AS 2161: Industrial Safety Gloves and Mittens (excluding electrical and medical gloves).

AS/NZ 1336: Recommended Practices for Occupational Eye Protection.

AS/NZS 1715: Selection, use and maintenance of respiratory protective devices.

AS/NZS 1716: Respiratory protective devices.

AS/NZS 4501: Occupational protective clothing.

## Advice Note:

Cement Australia believes the information in this document to be accurate as at the date of preparation, but, to the maximum extent permitted by law, Cement Australia accepts no responsibility for any loss or damage caused by any person acting or refraining from action because of this information.

The provision of this information should not be construed by anyone as a recommendation to use this product. No one should use any product in violation of any patent or other intellectual proprietary rights or in breach of any statute or regulation.

Users should rely on their own knowledge and inquiries and make their own determination as to the applicability of this information in relation to their particular purposes and specific circumstances. Each user should read this MSDS and consider the information in the context of how the product will be handled and used in the workplace and in conjunction with other substances or products.

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[SDS Ends]