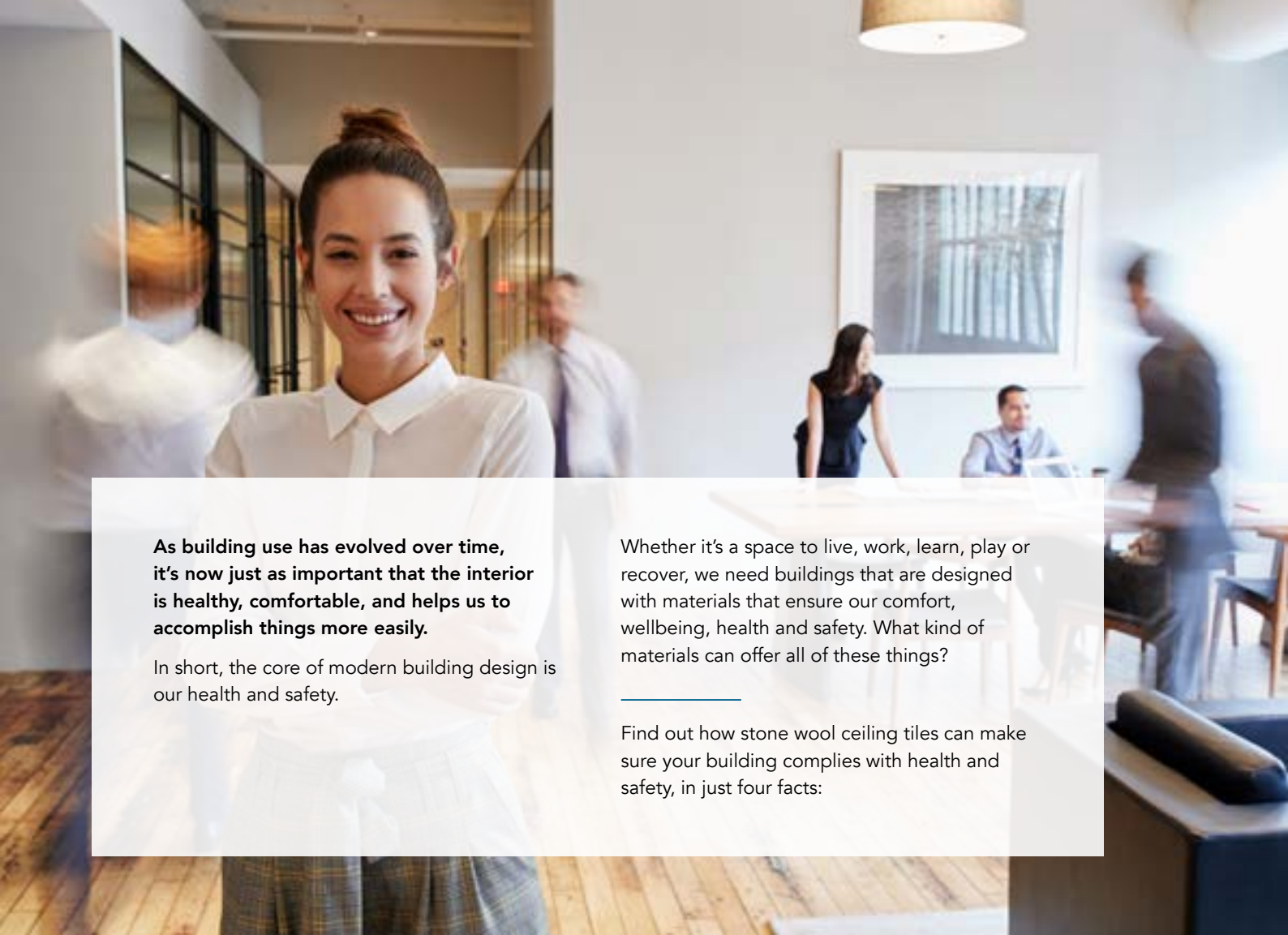


4 FACTS ABOUT

# **The health and safety** of stone wool ceiling tiles



**Sounds Beautiful**



**As building use has evolved over time, it's now just as important that the interior is healthy, comfortable, and helps us to accomplish things more easily.**

In short, the core of modern building design is our health and safety.

Whether it's a space to live, work, learn, play or recover, we need buildings that are designed with materials that ensure our comfort, wellbeing, health and safety. What kind of materials can offer all of these things?

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Find out how stone wool ceiling tiles can make sure your building complies with health and safety, in just four facts:

**01**

## **Stone wool ceiling tiles are low emitting.**

Buildings are essentially enclosed spaces. And as soon as we enclose a space, air quality becomes vital. Certain building materials emit undesired chemicals, pollutants or contaminants. Often these don't just smell bad, they can seriously affect our health and ability to concentrate.

Our stone wool ceiling tiles are low-emitting materials, so it helps maintain healthy indoor air quality. They've been awarded top-class indoor climate labels, like the French VOC A+, Greenguard Gold, Finish M1, Blue Angel and the Danish Indoor Climate Label. In fact, our products emit less formaldehyde than the WHO guidelines – and our 2nd generation binder products emit ten times less than WHO guidelines.<sup>1)</sup> So when it comes to working with stone wool ceiling products, you can breathe easily.



1) World Health Organisation- Reg. Office for Europe, 2010, "WHO Guidelines for Indoor Air Quality: Selected Air Pollutants", available via [https://www.euro.who.int/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0009/128169/e94535.pdf](https://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/128169/e94535.pdf), accessed Jan.2021.



## 02 Stone wool ceiling tiles pose no health issues.

Stone wool has been tested and studied more than any other building material in the world. And the results are in: it is completely safe to manufacture, install and live with.

The WHO certifies that stone wool poses no risk to human health<sup>2)</sup>, and the IARC has classified it alongside ‘drinking coffee’ in ‘Group 3: Agents not classifiable as to its carcinogenicity to humans.’ (For more information on this, see the table below.)

Rockfon continuously screens the surfaces of the ceiling tiles to ensure that they meet the requirements from REACH and from private schemes. Rockfon products comply with the Authorization List – Annex XIV, the Restriction list – Annex XVII and the SVHC candidate list, (June 2013). No substances listed in Annex XIV and Annex XVII of REACH regulation are intentionally added to the listed products\*. Rockfon ceiling tiles do not contain substances of very high concern (SVHC) in concentrations >0.01% (100 ppm), unless otherwise stated. Rockfon products have been screened under private schemes like Cradle to Cradle and have been Cradle to Cradle certified Silver and Bronze. The Cradle to Cradle list of Restricted Substances is more rigorous and our certification is a proof that we meet the regulatory requirements and we go above and beyond those.

The fibres in stone wool are also bio-soluble, which means they can dissolve in a biological system.<sup>3) 4)</sup> So if you do happen to inhale some fibres, your body can take care of it without you even noticing. Yet more data collected by REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals) proved that stone wool is not related to any negative human health effects whatsoever. So when it comes to health and safety, you can be sure that stone wool products are a safe choice.

Group	Definition	Examples
1	The agent is carcinogenic to humans	Benzene, tobacco, smoking, asbestos
2A	The agent is probably carcinogenic to humans	Diesel engine exhaust, using sunlamps
2B	The agent is possibly carcinogenic to humans	Engine exhaust, gasoline, occupational exposure in dry cleaning
3	The agent (mixture or exposure circumstance) is not classifiable as to its carcinogenicity to humans	Caffeine, sacharin and its salts, tea
4	The agent is probably not carcinogenic to humans	The only substance is caprolactam

2) IARC Monographs on the evaluation of carcinogenic risks to humans-Man-made vitreous fibers, WHO, 2002

3) Note Q of the CLP Regulation ((EC) No 1272/2008))

4) <http://www.ecetoc.org/report2/biosolubility/definition-for-biosolubility/>

\* According to the information provided by such third party manufacturers, who have been carefully selected by Rockfon, the products delivered by said third party suppliers fulfil the content requirements stated in the above schemes. Rockfon however accepts no liability should such information provided prove to be incorrect.



### 03

## Stone wool fibres are not hazardous or irritants.

Handling stone wool fibre is a lot like handling straw. While some people do find it itchy to handle, this is completely temporary and not harmful in any way. Stone wool fibres do not cause any kind of chemical irritation and pose no risk to human health.

But even a temporary itchy feeling is enough for us to recommend appropriate clothing when you handle or install stone wool ceiling products. Gloves, long sleeves and trousers should ideally be worn, as outlined in the diagram below:



Cover exposed skin. When working in unventilated area wear disposable face mask.



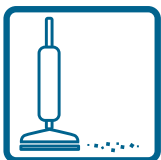
Ventilate working area if possible.



Rinse in cold water before washing.



Waste should be disposed according to local regulations.



Clean area using vacuum equipment.



Wear goggles when working overhead.

### 04

## Stone wool products can have a positive effect on health and safety.

Stone wool ceilings, baffles and other products are designed to look good and sound good. This may seem trivial, but an environment that protects us from unwanted noise can have a huge positive impact on our physical health, wellbeing, learning capacity and social behaviour. Stone wool products are made for this. They can do everything from reduce noise to absorb sound to create high-end acoustic environments.

But the benefits don't stop there. Stone wool ceiling tiles are fire resistant, which makes them an ideal component of safe, healthy, fire resilient buildings.

Stone wool ceiling products are proven to create safe, healthy and quiet indoor environments that pose no danger to health and safety.

Inspired to learn more about health, safety and stone wool? Explore the product benefits section on our webpage.

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