



# THE FACTS

## Stone Sculpture

**Stone sculptures** are an object may of stone which has been shaped, usually by carving, or assembled to form a visually interesting three-dimensional shape.

### Hazards:

- Sandstone, soapstone, and slate are highly toxic by inhalation because they contain large amounts of free silica.
- Serpentine, soapstone, and greenstone may contain asbestos.
- Carving of stone may pose hazards to the eye from flying chips.

### Safety:

- Provide and review safety data sheets for all chemicals used.
- Do not use stones that may contain asbestos.
- Select stones that have a lower content of free silica such as limestone.
- When working with stones that have high silica concentrations, apply a fine water spray over the sculpture while carving to reduce generation of dust.
- Ensure proper housekeeping to keep dust levels at a minimum, do not dry sweep.
- When using hand carving tools, keep your hands behind the tool and carve or cut away from your body.
- All electrical tools should be double insulated, properly grounded and connected to a ground fault circuit interrupter.
- Wear hearing protection when using noisy hand tools.



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