

GUIDELINES ON THE HANDLING OF MICROPLASTICS (SPM)

1. Purpose of the document

This document provides practical guidance for the end user on how to avoid the release of microplastics during the handling, preparation, and disposal of Edilteco products containing synthetic polymer microparticles (SPM, “Synthetic Polymer Microparticles”).

These instructions are drawn up in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2023/2055, which defines and regulates the management of microplastics to protect the environment and human health.

2. Scope

The following guidelines apply to all Edilteco S.p.A. products that contain granules or beads of expanded plastic material (such as EPS or similar) with a diameter ≤ 5 mm, used as lightweight aggregates or insulating additives in mortars, screeds, plasters, and other pre-mixed compounds.

3. Environmental Objectives

- Minimize the release of microplastics during use and tool washing.
- Ensure that any solid residues are collected and disposed of correctly.
- Prevent microplastics from reaching soil, surface waters, or sewers.

4. Instructions for the users

4.1. During product handling

- Open bags while avoiding the dispersion of beads or granules during transfer.
- Do not use compressed-air jets to clean surfaces or containers.
- In case of accidental spillage, collect the granules immediately with an industrial vacuum or suitable equipment (do not wash away with water).
- Do not release residues to soil or drainage systems.

4.2. During mix preparation

- Gradually add the plastic material to the mixture, avoiding spillage from the container.
- Keep mixing speed moderate to reduce dust formation or particle escape.
- If mixing residues are present, do not discharge wash water into sewers. Collect and allow the mortar to set, then dispose of it as solid waste.



4.3. After application

- Hardened residues of the mixture may be treated as non-hazardous inert waste, in compliance with local regulations.
- Avoid any mechanical crushing that could release plastic particles.
- Do not burn product residues or packaging.

4.4. Cleaning of tools

- Remove residues mechanically before washing.
- Do not discharge wash water containing beads or plastic fragments into sewers or onto soil.
- If floating residues are present, filter them and dispose of them as solid waste.

4.5. Disposal of unused material

- Store bags closed and intact, protected from humidity, wind, and rain.
- If the material is no longer usable, deliver it to an authorized manager of plastic or mixed non-hazardous waste, in compliance with local regulations.
- Do not disperse or bury loose material.

4.6. Disposal of packaging

- Plastic or paper/plastic packaging must be delivered to separate collection systems or authorized recovery centers.
- Do not disperse bags or fragments in the environment.

5. Recommended practices

- Always use dispersion-risk reduction systems during transfer.
- Collect and reuse spilled beads where possible.
- Follow good environmental protection and waste management practices.
- Do not wash contaminated surfaces with water jets.
- Do not release residues into sewer systems or onto soil.

6. Regulatory references

- Regulation (EU) 2023/2055 – Restriction on the placing on the market of microplastics.
- Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 (REACH) – Annex XVII, entry 78.
- ECHA guidance – “Reporting and communication requirements for suppliers of microplastics”.



7. Contacts

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