



Out!!!!

What's that one thing that all the teachers in this world cannot do without? ? The answer isn't homework, but Chalks!

Chalk is a soft, white, porous form of limestone composed of the mineral calcite. It is also a sedimentary rock. Chalk is formed in shallow waters by the gradual accumulation of the calcite mineral remains of micro-organisms, over millions of years.

Blackboard Chalk is a substance used for writing on rough surfaces, as it readily crumbles leaving particles that stick loosely to these surfaces.

But, Chalk is not as naïve as it seems. Gypsum (the mineral that is presently used to make blackboard chalk, rather than Calcium Carbonate) is the natural form of calcium sulfate and may contain crystalline silica. Short-term exposure to dust particles of crystalline silica may cause irritation in eyes, skin, upper respiratory system; conjunctivitis; Rhinitis, Epistaxis (nose bleed)! Constant or prolonged exposure may affect lungs! The chalk dust is particularly harmful!

CHALK PIECES

◆ Teachers can't work properly without chalks; neither can designers, tailors, carpenters, tennis players (used for demarcations), gymnasts, rock climbers, weightlifters (applied to prevent slippage) and even forensic investigators!

◆ Plaster of Paris is made mostly of dried calcium sulphate. When water is added to the dry, powdered plaster, the water molecules bind the calcium sulphate particles together, forming a hard mass. Calcium sulfate is also used in the manufacture of artificial marble, wall plaster, gypsum board, tiles, and blocks.

◆ An abnormal craving to eat substances that are not usually consumed by humans is called Pica. Chalk residue is easily ingested into the lungs and may cause pulmonary distress. A person craving to consume things like chalk, talcum powder, etc. suffers from mineral deficiency.

Make your own sidewalk chalk!

