

25.26

25.26 - Natural steatite, whether or not roughly trimmed or merely cut, by sawing or otherwise, into blocks or slabs of a rectangular (including square) shape; talc.

2526.10 - Not crushed, not powdered

2526.20 - Crushed or powdered

Both natural steatite and talc are mineral substances rich in hydrous magnesium silicate. The former is more compact and massive than talc. Talc is foliated and softer and soapier to the touch.

Natural steatite of this heading may be shaped or processed in the same ways as the stones of heading 25.15 (see the Explanatory Note to that heading) and may be submitted to the processes allowed by Note 1 to this Chapter. Soapstone is a variety of natural steatite.

Talc of this heading may be submitted to the processes allowed by Note 1 to this Chapter. The more commonly met forms of talc are crude or powdered.

The term " French chalk " is used to designate certain varieties of steatite or talc in powder form.

The heading **excludes** " tailor's chalks " which are composed of steatite (**heading 96.09**).