

Asbestos

Asbestos is a generic name given to the fibrous variety of six naturally occurring minerals that have been used in various products. In the U.S., asbestos has been found naturally occurring in 20 States and mined in 17 States for over 100 years.

“Asbestos” is a designation for mineral products that possess high strength, flexibility, resistance to chemical and thermal degradation and that can be woven. Because of these properties, asbestos has been used in a wide range of manufactured goods, mainly in building materials, automobile products, heat-resistant fabrics, packaging, gaskets and coatings.

Breathing high levels of asbestos fibers for a long time can lead to an increased risk of asbestosis, lung cancer, and mesothelioma. Asbestosis is a noncancerous lung disease related to a

scarring of the lungs and occurs in people heavily exposed to asbestos in the workplace. Lung cancer has been linked to a variety of occupational exposures. Mesothelioma is a rare cancer of the membranes lining the lungs, chest and abdominal cavity, almost always linked to asbestos exposure.

Asbestos became popular during the Industrial Revolution of the late 19th century. It was used as insulation for steam pipes, turbines, boilers, kilns, ovens and other high-temperature products. At the turn of the 20th century, researchers began to notice a large number of deaths and lung problems in asbestos mining towns.

In 1917, it was observed that asbestos workers were dying at unnaturally young ages. It is disturbing to note

that despite health risks, the production and use of asbestos products continued to grow until the mid 1970s. Although its use has declined, asbestos is still present in many materials produced in the U.S. and in foreign products which are exported to the U.S.

Building materials containing asbestos that are not disturbed or deteriorated do not, in general, pose a health risk and can be left alone. Regardless of age however, regulations require that an asbestos survey be conducted prior to disturbing suspect building materials in commercial or residential buildings (residential >4 units, generally).



Asbestos Moments in History

2500 BC: Embalmed Egyptian pharaohs are dressed in asbestos clothing.

800: Charlemagne uses an asbestos tablecloth that can be thrown in the fire for cleaning.

1724: Ben Franklin takes his asbestos purse to

London. No one is impressed. He sells it when he runs out of money.

1939: Wizard of Oz is released. The Wicked Witch of the West flies an asbestos broom. “Snow” in the poppy field scene is asbestos.

1952: Kent introduces

cigarettes with the Micronite (asbestos) filter. 13 billion are manufactured from 1952-1957.

1963: Asbestos Man is introduced in Marvel Comics as a villain battling the Human Torch. His costume is made from “super” asbestos.

OGI Environmental Provides:

Asbestos Surveys with Sampling

Phase I Environmental Site Assessments

Phase II Contaminant Investigations

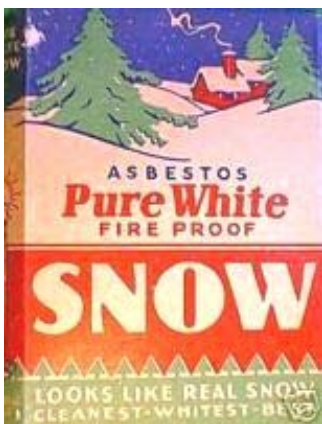
Site Cleanup and Remediation Services

Property Condition Assessments

Expert Witness Testimony

Did you Know?

- Asbestos is Greek for “indestructible”
- Asbestos has been used for over 4000 years
- In Roman times, it was observed that workers using asbestos had a “sickness of the lungs”
- 10,000 Americans a year die from asbestos-related diseases
- Over 3000 products contained asbestos



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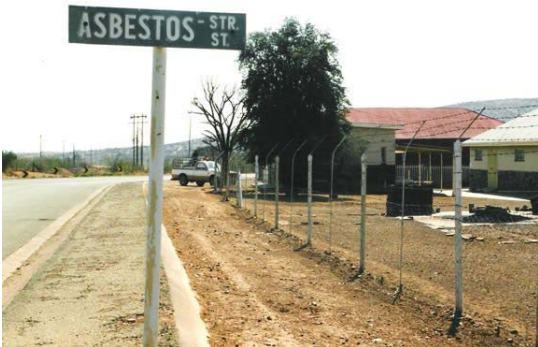
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The "Common Sense" Consultants



Not exactly Wisteria Lane

Top 10 Signs You've Picked a Bad Consultant*

10. His office intercom is two soup cans and a piece of string
9. She boasts that 90% of her employees eventually make parole
8. After your first meeting, you wind up in the trunk of his car, blind-folded
7. As you enter his office, an attorney hands you a business card
6. Greenpeace is what he calls the thing he coughed up this morning
5. Her computers run on Windows 78
4. When you're alone in the office restroom, a voice tells you to quit blocking the lens
3. Company policy: miss a deadline, lose a finger
2. Her fax machine is always clogged with subpoenas
1. He only has three fingers left

*gender neutral

Asbestos Bad Boys

Alaska: Workers in Prudhoe Bay have discovered asbestos along the pipelines while stripping insulation from corroded pipes. 200 workers were told to stop working while State labor officials investigate the possibility of asbestos exposure among workers at the site.

Arizona: The US Environmental Protection Agency fined five Arizona charter



schools \$49,200 for asbestos violations. The schools failed to conduct asbestos inspections in school buildings and did not have asbestos management plans.

California: A Pacific Grove company was fined over \$110,000 for asbestos violations at a Seaside job site. The company allegedly failed to notify authorities about disturbance of asbestos (floor and ceiling tiles) and then illegally disposed of the asbestos at a landfill.

Nevada: The owner of a Henderson asbestos removal company was sentenced to prison for improper work practices at the Uniform Shop in Reno. The violations stemmed from the man not properly notifying authorities prior to removing the asbestos, not wetting the asbes-

tos, not removing it in large sections and improperly sealing containers.

Pennsylvania: The owner of the former Evans Rollerdom in McKean County was fined \$40,780 for ignoring asbestos regulations when he demolished the building.

Texas: A Dallas man faces up to 25 years in prison and a fine of \$1.25 million after being convicted on four counts relating to asbestos violations. The man was convicted of improper work practices and disposal of asbestos floor tile.

Wisconsin: A Wisconsin company was fined \$275,000 for asbestos violations during demolition work at the former Solvay Coke facility.