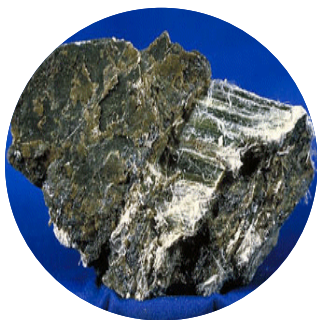


ASBESTOS FACT SHEET



Asbestos was extensively used in building materials and insulation boards Australia between the 1940's and late 1980's. The use of all forms of asbestos has been banned in Australia since December 2003, as we now know that asbestos fibres, when inhaled, cause lung cancer.

ELS offer Asbestos Audits and Asbestos Abatement Services for a wide range of clients. We are able to take and analyze asbestos samples in our NATA accredited in-house laboratory. Asbestos identification as well as fibre counting are important steps involved in asbestos audits and asbestos abatement. Asbestos removal plans are developed based on these results. Asbestos laboratory investigations are also essential prior to giving asbestos clearance certificates.



What is asbestos?

Asbestos is the term used to describe the fibrous forms of naturally occurring minerals mined from the Earth.

Asbestos has been exploited for its useful properties of:

- Flexibility
- Fire resistance
- Resistance to chemical attack
- High tensile strength
- Excellent durability
- Insulating properties

Asbestos containing material (ACM) is the term used to describe a material which contains any of the regulated fibrous minerals. These include:

- Chrysotile (White Asbestos)
- Amosite (Brown Asbestos)
- Crocidolite (Blue Asbestos)
- Anthophyllite
- Actinolite
- Tremolite

Chrysotile (White Asbestos) is classed as a sheet silicate and is a member of the serpentine group. The other five types of asbestos are classed as chain silicates and form part of the amphibole group. The amphibole fibres appear as straight needle-like fibres, whereas the serpentine fibres are wavy in morphology.

This difference does not matter in terms of the health effects related to inhalation of asbestos fibres, and breathing in any asbestos fibres is dangerous to your health. The main health effects include asbestosis, lung cancer and mesothelioma. These diseases can take up to 50 years to develop, there may be some treatments for asbestos related diseases, but there are currently no known cures.

Asbestos containing materials are not dangerous as long as they are kept in good condition (undamaged and undisturbed). Work on ACMs should only be carried out by experienced and highly trained professionals.

Where is asbestos found?

Asbestos is found in many building products, including, but not limited to:

- Board
- Ropes
- Sealants
- Fibre cement
- Friction products
- Bitumen roof felts
- Pipe insulation
- Vinyl floor tiles
- Gaskets
- Textiles
- Mastics
- and more...

All asbestos or suspected asbestos should only be handled by expert professionals. ELS has a vast amount of experience in the asbestos business, controlling and advising on the risks posed by asbestos in all types of commercial and residential properties. Our unrivalled level of expertise enables us to offer sensible solutions to all your asbestos problems.