

STATE OF COLORADO

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Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

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Colorado Department
of Public Health
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ASBESTOS BANS

Since it was first used, asbestos was put into about 3,000 types of products. Although most people believe asbestos use was stopped in a certain year, the use of asbestos in most products was never completely banned in the United States. Below is a brief listing of what specifically was banned and what wasn't banned.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

BANS ON USAGE of certain asbestos-containing materials (ACM):

- 1973, banned spray-applied surfacing ACM for fireproofing/insulating purposes.
- 1975, banned installation of wet-applied and pre-formed (molded) asbestos pipe insulation, and banned installation of pre-formed (molded) asbestos block insulation on boilers and hot water tanks (thermal system insulation).
- 1978, banned spray-applied Surfacing ACM for "decorative" purposes.
- 1989, and reconfirmed in 1993, banned six asbestos-containing product use categories:
 - Corrugated paper,
 - Rollboard,
 - Commercial paper,
 - Specialty paper,
 - Flooring felt, and
 - New uses of asbestos.
- 1990, prohibits spray-on application of materials containing more than 1% asbestos to buildings, structures, pipes, and conduits unless the material is encapsulated with a bituminous or resinous binder during spraying and the materials are not friable after drying.

The following uses of asbestos-containing material were not banned:

- Troweled-on surfacing asbestos-containing material.
- Asbestos-cement corrugated sheet, asbestos-cement flat sheet, asbestos clothing, pipeline wrap, roofing felt, vinyl-asbestos floor tile, asbestos-cement shingle, millboard, asbestos-cement pipe, automatic transmission components, clutch facings, friction materials, disc brake pads, drum brake linings, brake blocks, gaskets, non-roofing coatings, and roof coatings.
- The EPA still allows, on equipment and machinery, spray-on application of materials that contain more than 1% asbestos where the asbestos fibers in the materials are encapsulated with a bituminous or resinous binder during spraying and the materials are not friable after drying; or for friable materials, where either no visible emissions are discharged to the outside air from spray-on application, or specified methods are used to clean emissions containing particulate asbestos material before they escape to, or are vented to, the outside air.

Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)

In 1977, banned two products that contain asbestos:

- Products such as spackling compounds, tape joint compounds, and other mixtures that consumers use to patch or seal cracks, holes, or other imperfections in drywall and other surfaces. These products may be in dry form ready to be mixed with water or may be an already-mixed paste.
- Decorative simulated ashes or embers that are placed under artificial logs in gas-burning fireplaces and that, when heated, glow like real burning embers. The ban includes material containing asbestos that is glued to artificial logs either at the factory or by consumers using an “emberizing” kit, and also covers artificial embers and ashes used in artificial fireplaces for decorative purposes.

Because of the North American Free Trade Act, products that are made for use in Canada and Mexico, neither of which have banned the used of asbestos in products, are available today in the United States.

The ONLY way to know for absolute certainty if a material contains asbestos is to have the material tested by an accredited laboratory and the only way to know where asbestos-containing material is located in a home or any other building is to have an inspection by a state-certified asbestos inspector; you can look in the yellow pages under "Asbestos Consulting & Testing".

For More Information, please contact:

Asbestos Compliance Assistance Group

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