

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 359 041

SE 053 395

AUTHOR Alderson, Karen L., Comp.  
 TITLE Asbestos and Asbestosis. LC Science Tracer Bullet.  
 INSTITUTION Library of Congress, Washington, DC. Science and  
 Technology Div.  
 REPORT NO ISSN-0090-5232; TB-92-2  
 PUB DATE Sep 92  
 NOTE 16p.  
 AVAILABLE FROM Science Reference Section, Science and Technology  
 Division, Library of Congress, 10 First Street, S.E.,  
 Washington, DC 20540.  
 PUB TYPE Reports - Evaluative/Feasibility (142)  
 EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.  
 DESCRIPTORS \*Asbestos; Cancer; Ceilings; Construction Materials;  
 Elementary Secondary Education; Geology; \*Hazardous  
 Materials; \*Minerals; Physical Health; Repair;  
 \*Science Education; Structural Elements  
 (Construction)

ABSTRACT

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral found in several forms and because of its temperature-resisting properties, flexibility, and strength, it was widely used in the construction industry, automobile industry, and textile industry. Asbestos becomes dangerous when it crumbles and breaks releasing fibers that can cause asbestosis and certain types of cancer. Since the effects of asbestos exposure often do not appear until years later, there is concern in the United States over the presence of asbestos in older buildings, particularly schools. This guide lists materials on the uses and health problems associated with asbestos. As the name implies it is not a comprehensive bibliography but is designed to put the reader "on target." (PR)

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# LC Science Tracer Bullet

Science Reference Section, Science and Technology Division  
Library of Congress, 10 First Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20540

ISSN 0090-5232

ED359041

## ASBESTOS AND ASBESTOSIS

Compiled by Karen L. Alderson

TB 92-2

September 1992

**SCOPE** Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral found in several forms. It is mined chiefly in Canada and Russia as a dense rock and separated into fibers by crushing. Because of its temperature-resisting properties, flexibility, and strength, asbestos was widely used, until the 1970s, by the construction industry in insulation, caulking, floor tiles, and plastics, by the automotive industry in brake linings, and by the textile industry in fire-resistant clothing. Although asbestos causes no serious health problems as long as it remains intact, it becomes dangerous when it crumbles or breaks and its fibers are released. The fibers can cause diseases such as asbestosis and certain types of cancer. Because of these hazards, use of asbestos in industry is regulated in the United States to protect workers, and many uses of the material are banned entirely. Since the effects of asbestos exposure often do not appear until years later, there is concern in the United States over the presence of asbestos in older buildings, particularly schools.

This guide lists materials on the uses and health problems associated with asbestos. As the name implies, it is not a comprehensive bibliography but is designed to put the reader "on target." The present guide is an update of TB 87-1.

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Includes bibliographic references.

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ASBESTOS (Highly relevant)  
ASBESTOS ABATEMENT INDUSTRY (Highly relevant)  
ASBESTOS INDUSTRY (Highly relevant)  
ASBESTOSIS (Highly relevant)  
ASBESTOS--ADVERSE EFFECTS (Relevant)  
ASBESTOS--ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS (Relevant)  
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ASBESTOS--TOXICOLOGY (Relevant)  
ASBESTOS DUST (Relevant)  
ASBESTOS FIBERS (Relevant)  
ASBESTOS IN BUILDING (Relevant)  
MESOTHELIOMA (Relevant)  
PRODUCTS LIABILITY--ASBESTOS (Relevant)  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (More general)  
OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES (More general)  
POLLUTANTS--TOXICOLOGY (More general)

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**ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING SERVICES** that index relevant journal articles and other literature on asbestos and asbestosis are listed below. Consult reference librarian for locations of these materials in Science Reading Room; some are available in CD-ROM format.

<i>Applied Science &amp; Technology Index</i> (1913-)	Z7913.I7 <SciRR>
<i>Biological Abstracts</i> (1926-)	QH301.B37 <SciRR>
<i>Biological &amp; Agricultural Index</i> (1916-)	Z5073.A46 <SciRR>
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*Journal of Environmental Health* RA565.A1S3  
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Twight, Charlotte. Regulation of asbestos: the microanalytics of government failure. *Policy studies review*, v. 10, fall 1990: 9-39.

Worthen, David. Asbestos abatement (the insurance crisis): a solution is still up in the ambient air. *Syracuse law review*, v. 38, no. 4, 1987: 1343-1368.

#### ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Asbestos Information Association/North America  
1745 Jefferson Davis Highway  
Suite 509  
Arlington, Virginia 22202  
Telephone: (703) 979-1150

Established by a group of asbestos companies in the United States and Canada working together to inform the public about the asbestos industry and about the health effects of asbsetos.

Association of Wall and Ceiling Industries-International  
1600 Cameron Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314  
Telephone: (703) 684-2924

Sponsors a foundation and research library which has materials on asbestos removal as well as construction codes and building standards.

Center for Environmental Management  
Education and Outreach Division  
Tufts University  
177 College Avenue  
Medford, Massachusetts 02155  
Telephone: (404) 627-3531

EPA selected Tufts University as one of three educational institutions to develop and implement a pilot educational program directed toward groups that have a direct impact on asbestos exposure. The center offers training seminars, clearinghouse activities, and a technical assistance program.

Environmental Information Association, Inc.  
1777 NE Expressway  
Atlanta, Georgia 30329  
Telephone: (404) 633-2622

Partially supported by a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration for training of asbestos abatement workers, this organization collects and distributes information on asbestos abatement in buildings and structures of all types.

Environmental Protection Agency  
Environmental Science and Technology Center  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
151 Sixth Street  
O'Keefe Building, Room 029  
Atlanta, Georgia 30318  
Telephone: (404) 894-3806  
Contacts: Vicki Ainsley  
Bob Schmitter

National Asbestos Council See Environmental Information Association, Inc.

National Asbestos Training Center  
University of Kansas Continuing Education  
12600 Quivera Road  
Overland Park, Kansas 66213-2402  
Telephone: (913) 491-0181