



Mechanical Pollution Prevention Asbestos

[Close Fullsc](#)[Preferer](#)[Previous Page](#)

Page 2 of 17

[Next Page](#)

Brakes and Clutches - Friction Materials

Brake linings and clutch facings are known as friction materials. Since the early 1900s most brakes, clutches and some non-friction automotive materials such as head gaskets and manifold gaskets have been made with a material known as asbestos.

Asbestos is a tough, sturdy material that does not burn. It's a natural occurring substance (also known as silicate of magnesium) that is dug out of the ground in the United States and Canada. After processing, it typically takes the form of tiny, virtually indestructible fibers.



did you know?

Because asbestos is nonflammable and a poor heat conductor, it has been used in every part of the world for brakes and clutches. In environments where friction and heat are high, most materials burn up. In contrast, asbestos products wear out slowly. When used in brake linings, pads and clutches, asbestos slowly wears away, and the result of that wear appears in the form of a black or dark grey dust which collects in and around brake drums, rotors and on the outside of wheels.