FILE NAME: Drywall Spackling Compounds (DWSC)

DATE: 1975

DOC#: DWSC023

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Letters between Mt. Sinai, the NIEHS & Companies, with Barry Castleman Comments

Barry I. Castleman ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT / 1738 Riggs Place, North West, Washington, D.C. 20009/202 - 387 - 7595

Package from Art Rohl on Spackle, Etc.

This is the correspondence between Mt. Sinai and the NIEHS, and the companies. Most of this occurred soon after the publication of the Science paper in August, 1975.

1. Rutland Fire Clay Company, letter to Frank Raftery (President of painters union) June 10, 1975:

   The firm's dry and ready mixed joint taping compounds contain chrysotile asbestos; caution statement added to the product labels.

2. Bondex International, letter to Selikoff 9/5/75:

   METRO Spackling Compound does not have asbestos in its formula.

   Rohl reply: (9/16/75) METRO has 4-6 percent tremolite asbestos, a common contaminant of talc.

   Note: Here we see that some manufacturers may be making asbestos-containing products and are not even aware of it!

3. Synkoloid Company letter to Selikoff, 9/4/75; 9/18/75. Rohl reply, 9/12/75:

   First letter says their spackling paste and powder have been free of ashestos for at least 20 years; Rohl replies that their "Synkc Triple Duty Joint Compound" is 8-10% chrysotile. Oh yes, they respond, the joint compound does have 5.9% chrysotile, to be exact. They plan to do away with the chrysotile by the end of 1975.

   Note: Here we see that they were less than forthright in asking for mention that their spackle had no asbestos, while neglecting to say that their joint compound had asbestos. Asbestos removal summarily achievable, obviously. -- as was also the case with U.S.Gypsum.

4. Consumers Union lists spackle manufacturers from Hardware Age 1975 Buyers Guide.

5. Rohl memo to Selikoff 8/5/75 lists five taping and spackling compounds analyzed for painters union, samples submitted July, 1975. Four contain chrysotile and/or tremolite asbestos, the highest being S-C-L Vinyl Taping Compound (10-15% chry. and 8-12% trem.) These are presumably samples of stuff sold immediately prior to publication of the Science article.

6. Two-page list of "consumer spackling compounds" lists the 15 products tested in the Science paper, the manufacturers, and the amounts of asbestos minerals in each. Note that anthophyllite is another asbestos mineral. The samples were purchased 1) in 1972 or prior, and 2) in January, 1974. *This list was an attachment in a letter from Rohl to Dr. David Rall, Director of N.I.E.H.S. July 30, 1975.*

April 14, 1976

PHONE AREA CODE 802
775-5519

RUTLAND
FIRE CLAY COMPANY
RUTLAND VERMONT
OVER 90 YEARS
05701

GLAZING COMPOUND
ACRYLIC SEALANT
BUTYL CAULK
SEALING COMPOUND
TUB-CAULK
PANEL ADHESIVE

KEX SPACKLING
PATCHING PLASTER
HOBBY PLASTER
VINYL WOOD PUTTY
JOINT CEMENT
KWIK-PATCH PLASTER

CEMENT PAINTS & SEALERS
HYDRAULIC CEMENT
SILICONE WATER REPELLENT
ANTI-SPALLING COMPOUND
CONCRETE PATCHER
LEX-CRETE

ROOF CEMENTS
ROOF COATINGS & PAINTS
METAL PAINTS
THANE & THANE ENAMEL
FURNACE CEMENT
WATER GLASS

RECEIVED
JUN 12 1975

June 10, 1975

Mr. S. Frank Raftery, General President
International Brotherhood of Painters and Allied Trades
United Unions Building
1750 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. Raftery:

This is in response to your May 30, 1975 letter concerning the proposed mineralogical investigation of joint taping compounds. We produce both a dry and a ready mixed compound. We believe it might simplify the job of Dr. Selikoff's group if we state that both our joint compounds contain the following mineral fillers:

marble (calcium carbonate)
mica
platy talc
chrysotile asbestos
yellow ochre

Formulas for the compounds have not been changed in over eight years.

We share in the concern over the potential hazards of excessive worker exposure to asbestos fibers. Accordingly, we are adding a caution statement to our labels. A sample of the caution for our ready mixed compound is attached.

If you still wish samples for analysis to confirm the above information, we will be pleased to comply.

Sincerely,

A. Willard

A. Willard,
Chief Chemist

AW:jb

CAUTION: CONTAINS ASBESTOS FIBERS. INHALING DUST FROM DRY COMPOUND MAY BE HARMFUL.

If compound needs smoothing after application, it is preferable to damp-sponge compound before it dries, or to wet-sand after it dries. If dry sanding is needed, ventilate area, and wear Bureau of Mines approved dust mask or equivalent.

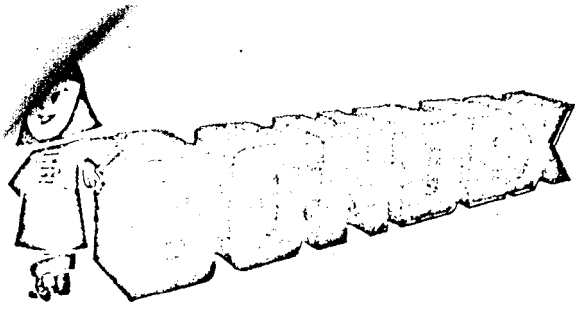
CAUTION

CONTAINS ASBESTOS FIBERS

Breathing asbestos dust can cause serious bodily harm. When dry-sanding this product wear eye protection and respirator approved by Bureau of Mines. Keep area well ventilated. Wet sanding or sponging is recommended where practical.

9/10 copy to Cook

Our 91st Year



INTERNATIONAL

BRUNSWICK, OHIO 44212 U. S. A.

Phone 216 225-3169

September 5, 1975

Dr. Irving J. Selikoff
Environmental Science Laboratory
Mt. Sinai Medical School
5th Avenue & E. 100th
New York, New York 10029

Dear Dr. Selikoff:

As the manufacturer of one product, METRO SPACKLING COMPOUND, mentioned in a recent newspaper article as being used in your studies of spackling compounds we would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of your report of findings to date and most specifically as related to our product.

Our concern is in the fact that the article identifies our product as one of four samples containing asbestos in amounts from 4 to 12% by weight.

We feel these figures must be incorrect specifically in view of the fact that our formula does not call for the addition of any asbestos in this product and the percentages listed could hardly be considered "traces".

In view of this and other inaccuracies in the article you can appreciate our concern and we would like to have a copy of this report for our reference file. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

BONDEX INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Julius K. Nemeth

JKN/tw

September 16, 1975

Mr. Julius K. Nemeth
Bondex International, Inc.
Brunswick, Ohio 44212

Dear Mr. Nemeth:

Dr. Selikoff has asked me to respond to your inquiry of September 5 regarding the asbestos content of a sample of Metro. The sample in question was a 1 lb. box of spackling compound for interior wall repair, which I purchased at a hardware store in New York City in January 1974. Fifteen samples of other consumer spackling compounds were also purchased and analyzed by optical microscopy, x-ray diffraction and transmission electron microscopy. The results of these analyses showed that the Metro contained plaster of Paris, talc, tremolite and quartz. Tremolite is an asbestos mineral and it comprised from about 4 to 6% of the Metro sample. You have pointed out that the Metro formula does not call for the addition of asbestos but you may have overlooked the fact that many talc deposits contain tremolite. When the talc is mined and processed the tremolite is carried over into the final product.

The report on spackling compounds was published in the journal Science on August 15. It did not give product names, although subsequent news articles did, in some cases. I will send you a reprint of the Science article when it becomes available. If I can be of further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur N. Rohl, Ph.D.
Environmental Sciences Laboratory

ANR:sl

cc: Dr. I.J. Selikoff

9/10 Copy to Clerk

The Synkoloid Company...
2945 East Maria Street - Dominguez Industrial Park
Compton, California 90221
Telephone: (213) 537-1450

makers of SYNKO products

MAILING ADDRESS:
P.O. Box 60937
Los Angeles, Calif. 90060

September 4, 1975

MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL
5th Avenue @ 100th Street
New York, N. Y. 10029

Attn: Dr. Irving J. Selikoff
Environmental Science Laboratory

Dear Sir:

We have just read an article appearing in the New York Times which was headed "CONSUMER NOTES - ASBESTOS WARNING GIVEN FOR SPACKLE" (copy attached) in which you were mentioned as having directed scientific studies of 15 kinds of spackle purchased in New York City.

We are writing you because our company's products were not mentioned in this article. For your information, the Synkoloid Company produced the first ready-to-use Spackling Paste in the United States under the name "Synkoloid's Spackling Paste". In addition, we have manufactured "Synkoloid's Spackling Powder" for over 30 years. We are pleased to advise that - for at least the last 20 years - neither product contained any asbestos fibers, nor do they now.

We would appreciate very much being included in your final report, and with that thought in mind, we are taking the liberty of sending you regular containers of each product with the hope that you will be able to include them in this final report. If this is not satisfactory, we assume you will arrange to obtain samples in New York City.

A reply will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

THE SYNKOLOID COMPANY

S. T. Simpson

S. T. Simpson
Vice President & General Manager

STS/s

September 12, 1975

The Synkoloid Company
P. O. Box 60937
Los Angeles, California 90060

Dear Sirs:

Thank you for your offer of the spackling paste and powder. We will include them in our on-going study and apprise you of the results. We recently had opportunity to test another of your products "Synko triple duty joint compound" (dry), provided to us by the International Brotherhood of Painters and Allied trades. We found that it contained from 8-10% chrysotile with no indications of this asbestos content on the label.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur N. Rohl, Ph.D.
Environmental Sciences Laboratory

ANR:sl

The Synkoloid Company...
2945 East Maria Street - Dominguez Industrial Park
Compton, California 90221
Telephone: (213) 537-1450

makers of SYNKO products

MAILING ADDRESS:
P.O. Box 60937
Los Angeles, Calif. 90060

Sept. 18, 1975

MOUNT SINAI SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
of The City University of New York
Fifth Avenue and 100th Street
New York, N. Y. 10029

Attn: Mr. Arthur N. Rohl, Ph.D.
Environmental Sciences Laboratory

Dear Sir:

Thanks very much for your letter of September 12th advising that you will include Synkoloid's Spackling Paste and Synkoloid's Spackling Powder in your on-going study on asbestos fibres.

Samples of both products are being sent to you personally from our Atlanta plant and the material should be in your hands early next week.

We note with interest your comments regarding Synko Triple Duty Joint Compound and readily admit to the presence of asbestos fibres. However, we respectfully advise that the content of chrysotile is 5.9% rather than the higher figure quoted.

As to the notation of the content of asbestos on our containers, we do have a caution clause on our 25 pound bag used by professional applicators, although it is not indicated on our 5 pound packages.

For your information, we have been working on this problem for many months and have now reached the point where the joint compound products are the only ones in our line that contain asbestos fibres. I am now referring to production rather than stocks which may be in the hands of our customers at the present moment. We expect to eliminate asbestos from completely in our Synkoloid products by the end of this year.

Sincerely yours,
THE SYNKOLOID COMPANY

S. J. Burgeson

S. J. Burgeson
Vice President & General Manager

SJB/s
cc: Dr. I.J.Selikoff
Linda Jones
Ron Ware
DeWitt House



CONSUMERS UNION / A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION / PUBLISHER OF CONSUMER REPORTS

November 6, 1975

Dr. Arthur N. Rohl
Department of Community Medicine
Mount Sinai School of Medicine
Fifth Avenue and 100th Street
New York, N.Y. 10029

Dear Art:

The enclosed list of spackling compound manufacturers and brands from Hardware Age 1975 Buyers Guide, page 322, may prove helpful to Irving. Please note that the list may not be a complete one.

With best regards to you, Irving and Art Langer,

Cordially,

Ed

Edward Miller
Project Manager

EM:ov
Encl.

256 WASHINGTON STREET / MOUNT VERNON, NEW YORK 10550

NG 3

Manufacturer	Address	Brand
Bondex International	Brunswick, Ohio 44212	RESURFO+METRO
Dap Inc.	P.O. Box 277, 5300 Huberville Ave., Dayton, Ohio 45401	DURATITE
DeMert & Dougherty Inc.	500 W. 41 St., Chicago, Ill. 60650	SPAKOLEEZ
Evans Adhesive Corp.	925 W. Henderson, Columbus, Ohio 43212	-
Gibson-Holmans Co.	2366 Woodhill Rd. Cleveland, Ohio 44106	HANDIPATCH
Harris-Thomas Co.	Div. American Finish & Chemical Co. 1012 Broadway, Chelsea, Maine 02150	EASY PATCH (vin
Macco Adhesives	Div. Glidden Coatings & Resins SCM Corp., 304 Lakeland Rd., Wickliffe, Ohio 44092	SPACKO
Macklanburg-Duncan Co.	P.O. Box 25188 Oklahoma City, Okla. 73125	Pastes only
Mantrose-Haeuser	Div. Millmaster Onyx Corp. 99 Park Ave., N.Y., N.Y. 10016	READY PATCH
Michlin Chemical Corp.	9045 Vincent, Detroit, Mich. 48211	MISTER THINZIT
Muralo Co. Inc.	100 Church, N.Y., N.Y. 10007	SPACKLE EXTERIOR SPACKL
Red Devil Inc.	2400 Vauxhall Rd., Union, N.J. 07083	SCHALK PATCH PASTE PATCH-A-WALL
Reliable Paste & Chemical Co.	3560 Shields Ave. Chicago, Ill. 60609	COMET
Rutland Fire Clay Co.	Rutland, Vermont 05701	KEX
Savogram Co.	259 Lenox, Norwood, Ma. 02062	LEVEL BEST PRESTO PATCH(V
Sherwin-Williams Co.	1370 Ontario, Cleveland, O. 44113	DEXALL Patching Paste
Sterling Clark Lurton Corp.	184 Commercial, Malden, Ma. 02148	Spatch-PATCH
United States Gypsum Co.	101 S. Wacker Dr., Chicago, Ill. 60606	DURABOND TEXOLITE
Willis-Moore Paint Specialties Inc.	1911 E. 92 St., Los Angeles, Ca. 90002	WILMOR
Synkoloid Co.	P.O.Box 60937 Los Angeles, Ca. 90060	MAGIC PATCH (Vinyl)

MOUNT SINAI SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
of The City University of New York

To: Dr. Irving J. Selikoff

Date: August 5, 1975

From: Dr. Arthur N. Rohl

Subject:

The five samples of drywall joint taping compounds submitted by the International Brotherhood of Painters and Allied Trades in July 1975 have been analyzed by x-ray diffraction, optical and electron microscopy. The accompanying table of results shows that four contain asbestos, including tremolite and chrysotile.

Three of the five compounds are in paste form with labels indicating a vinyl-type base. In order to determine whether vinyl chloride may be released during application of the compounds, gas chromatography and mass spectrometry were used to analyze for vinyl chloride. In addition to the three paste compounds described herein, four others in vinyl-and latex-paste form were also analyzed. Results were negative for vinyl chloride.

cc: S. Frank Raftery
John Pecoraro

RESULTS OF MINERALOGICAL ANALYSIS OF FIVE TAPING AND SPACKLING COMPOUNDS SUBMITTED BY J. PECORARO, JULY 1975

Handi-Patch	Sterling Ready Mix vinyl joint cement	S-C-L vinyl taping compound	Sterling All-purpose	Synko
QUARTZ	CALCITE	CALCITE	CALCITE	CALCITE
CALCITE	MICA	MICA	MICA	MICA
dolomite	TALC	TALC	QUARTZ	chrysotile(8-12%)
	kaolinite	kaolinite	TALC	talc
	chrysotile(5-8%)	chrysotile(10-15%)	kaolinite	
	tremolite (1-2%)	tremolite(8-12%)	tremolite (1-2%)	

Major components are in capital letters and substances present in lesser quantities are shown in lower case letters. Asbestos minerals,, where present, are underlined and their weight-percentage indicated.

TAPING AND SPACKLING COMPOUNDS

SUBMITTED BY J. PECORARO, JULY 1975

Handi-patch vinyl spackling compound (paste)
Handi-Products Company
P.O. Box 1955
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

S C L vinyl joint taping compound (paste)
Sterling-Clark Lurton Corporation
Malden, Mass. 02148

Sterling 12-Star All-purpose triple use joint cement topping
cement and texture compound (paste)
Stebbins & Roberts (S R R Inc.)
Little Rock, Fort Worth, Oklahoma City

Sterling 12 Star Ready mixes all purpose vinyl joint cement (dry)
Stebbins & Roberts (S & R Inc.)

Synko
Triple duty joint compound (dry)
The Synkoloid Company
2945 E. Maria
Compton, California 90221

log-3e-

AUG 04 1975

MOUNT SINAI SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
of The City University of New York
FIFTH AVENUE AND 100TH STREET • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10029

Department of Community Medicine

July 30, 1975

aug. 15 publ. date

BC-
OO 8/6/75

David P. Rall, M.D.
Director, National Institute of Environmental
Health Sciences
P.O. Box 12233
Research Triangle Park
North Carolina 27709

Dear Dr. Rall:

At the suggestion of Dr. Selikoff, I am enclosing a galley proof of a paper which will be published in "Science" within a week or two. The paper deals with analyses of spackling and taping compounds and with asbestos exposure to such compounds.

I have also enclosed the brand names of the spackling compounds (which are not given in the paper) and the results of the mineralogical analyses for each sample. I hope this information will be of use and would be happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Arthur N. Rohl, Ph.D
Environmental Sciences Laboratory

ANR:sl

8-5-75
per Mr. Bock, Editorial Office (after checking - OK
to be published 8/15 - release date
August 6 a.m. OK to be released then.
sl

The results of the analyses are tabulated below. Major components are in capital letters and substances present in relatively small quantities are shown in small case letters. Asbestos minerals, where present, have been noted and a determination of their quantity has been indicated:

Purchased 1972 or prior

1. Perf A tape
   MICA
   DOLOMITE
   KAOLINITE
   chrysotile (6-8%)
   TALC
   quartz
   calcite

2. Red top
   PLASTER OF PARIS
   CALCITE

3. USG Texolite
   PLASTER OF PARIS
   MICA
   calcite

4. Muralo
   PLASTER OF PARIS
   QUARTZ
   PYROPHYLLITE
   CALCITE
   mica
   kaolinite

Purchased January 1974

5. Metro
   PLASTER OF PARIS
   TREMOLITE (4-6%)
   TALC
   quartz

6. Perf A tape
   MICA
   DOLOMITE
   chrysotile (6-8%)
   kaolinite
   calcite

7. Arvon
   QUARTZ
   ANTHOPHYLLITE (10-12%)
   feldspar

8. Patch Paste
   QUARTZ
   CALCITE

9. Schalk
   QUARTZ
   CALCITE

10. USG Texolite
    DOLOMITE
    MICA
    KAOLINITE
    chrysotile (6-10)

11. U-G-L Cerfex
    PLASTER OF PARIS
    QUARTZ
    CALCITE
    mica

12. Muralo
    PLASTER OF PARIS
    QUARTZ
    CALCITE
    PYROPHYLLITE
    mica

13. Kex
    PLASTER OF PARIS
    CALCITE
    mica

14. "New" Kex
    QUARTZ
    kaolinite

15. DAP
    CALCITE

Consumer taping and spackling compounds which have been purchased for analysis of asbestos content

Purchased 1972 or prior

1. Perf-A-tape Joint System for gypsum wall boards; 4 1/2 lb. box (dry) - U.S. Gypsum Co., Chicago, Ill.

2. Red Top patching plaster; 5 lb. box (dry) - U.S. Gypsum Co., Chicago, Ill.

3. Texolite spackling putty for fine patching; 5 lb. box (dry) - U.S. Gypsum Co., Chicago, Ill.

4. Muralo spackle; 5 lbs box (dry) - Muralo Co., Bayonne, N. J.

Purchased January 1974

5. Metro spackling compound for interior wall repair; 1 lb box (dry) - Bondex International, various location

6. Perf-A-Tape Joint Systems for gypsum wallboards; 4 1/2 lb. box (dry) U.S. Gypsum Co., Chicago, Ill.

7. Arvon Spachling (sic) a ready mixed latex smooth filler material; 8 oz. can (paste) - Arvon Products, Philadelphia, Pa.

8. Patch Paste spackling compound; 8 oz. can (paste) Red Devil, Inc. Union, N.J.

9. Schalk Patch Paste spackling compound; 8 oz. can (paste) Schalk Chemicals subsidiary of Red Devil, Inc., Union, N.J.

10. USG Texolite paste spackling putty ready to use vinyl compound; 8 oz. can (paste) U.S. Gypsum Co., Chicago, Ill.

11. U-G-L Cerfex spackling compound; 1 lb. box (dry) - United Gilsonite Laboratories, Scranton, Pa.

12. Muralo spackle; 1 lb box (dry) Muralo Co., Bayonne, N. J.

13. Kex spackling for wood, plaster and metal; 2 lb. can (dry) - Rutland Products, Rutland, Vt.

14. "New" Kex paste spackling for plaster walls and wood; 8 oz. can (paste) - Rutland Products, Rutland, Vt.

15. DAP vinyl paste spackling compound; 8 oz. can (paste) - DAP, Inc. Dayton, Ohio

Table II

Summary of mineralogical analyses of consumer spackling and taping compounds

Sample No. (see Table 1)	Chrysotile asbestos	Other asbestos minerals	Quartz	Mica	Clay	Talc	Other silicate minerals
1	+	0	+	+	+	+	0
2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
4	0	0	+	+	+	0	+
5	0	+	+	0	0	+	0
6	+	0	0	+	+	0	0
7	0	+	+	0	0	0	+
8	0	0	+	0	0	0	0
9	0	0	+	0	0	0	0
10	+	0	0	+	+	0	0
11	0	0	+	+	0	0	0
12	0	0	+	+	0	0	+
13	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
14	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Techniques utilized: optical microscopy, electron microscopy, x-ray diffraction

Chrysotile asbestos	3/15
Other asbestos minerals	2/15
Quartz	8/15
Mica	8/15
Clay	5/15
Talc	2/15
Other silicate minerals	3/15

Arthur N. Rohl, Ph.D.

cc: Dr. W.J. Nicholson
Dr. A.M. Langer

sl