

Additional copies of this pamphlet and informational materials listed below are available from the Asbestos Information Association/North America:

- "What You Should Know About Asbestos and Health" — an employee information pamphlet.
- Recommended Work Practices
 - Fabrication and Use of Asbestos Paper Products
 - Shop and Field Fabrication of Asbestos Sheet Products
 - Molding and Fabrication of Asbestos Containing Plastic Products
 - Fabrication and Use of Asbestos Friction Materials
 - Use and Handling of Asbestos Textile Products
- "Federal Regulations — Asbestos" — a comprehensive handbook of regulations issued by Federal regulatory agencies.
- "Asbestos in the Atmosphere — A hazard to health?" — a general information pamphlet.
- "Asbestos in Water — A hazard to health?" — a general information pamphlet.
- Poster Series — Asbestos Health Hints for the Workplace — 15" x 23"
 - Vacuum dust spills never dry sweep!
 - When required, always use your respirator!
 - If you don't smoke now, don't start. If you do smoke, quit!
 - Report unsafe conditions immediately!
 - Repair broken bags immediately!
 - Use change rooms and lockers! Leave dusty clothes at work!
- Poster — Recommended Practices for Handling Asbestos Fiber — 11" x 14"



For further information:
Asbestos Information Association/North America
1835 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Recommended
Practices
for

Handling
Asbestos
Fiber



Recommended Practices for Handling Asbestos Fiber

Protection from fire, absorption of heat from friction, high tensile strength as a reinforcing material, resistance to corrosion and insulation from heat, cold and noise are among the properties of asbestos that result in its use in hundreds of industrial applications and home products.

Asbestos is the name given to a group of hydrated silicate minerals that are characterized by fibrous crystallization. Though asbestos is fairly common to the earth's crust, not all deposits are of commercial value. Because asbestos is fibrous and, in a certain range of sizes, can enter the lungs, maximum care should be taken to avoid exposure to asbestos dust and the hazards to health that can result.

GENERAL PRECAUTIONS

In all stages of handling — packaging, transporting, unloading, storing, and in-pit moving — asbestos fiber bags should be handled carefully and in such a manner as to prevent damage of bags and the generation of dust.

Damaged bags should be immediately repaired, resealed or put into closed receptacles. Any spillage of asbestos fiber should be cleaned up immediately — either by vacuum equipment or, after thoroughly wetting, by sweeping — and should be deposited in suitable closed receptacles.

Consult and observe OSHA regulations governing asbestos in the workplace, EPA rules on discharge to the ambient air, and other local codes, rules or regulations controlling the handling and use of asbestos fiber.

UNLOADING

Unitized loads should be lifted intact to and from holds of ships, and off and on land transport by forklift trucks or other suitable handling equipment.

Care should be taken to avoid puncturing the asbestos fiber bags during unloading from ships, railroad cars, trucks or other modes of transportation. Hooks or other sharp instruments should not be used. Loose fiber accumulated during transit should be picked up by vacuum cleaner before unloading.

STORAGE

For storage, fiber bags should be stacked and moved with care to avoid breakage, protected from puncture by moving vehicles; and, if possible, should be isolated from traffic in the warehouse and covered to prevent dust generation. To prevent deterioration of stored bags, the principle of first-in, first-out should be followed.

HANDLING

Maximum possible enclosure and fully effective dust control systems should be provided at all stages of in-plant handling where dust is created, such as in bag opening, fiber dumping and bag disposal operations. Loose fiber should be cleaned from work areas by vacuum cleaner, or after thoroughly wetting, by sweeping, and then deposited in covered receptacles.

PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Wearing of respiratory equipment approved for protection against asbestos dust should be required at all stages of asbestos fiber handling where quantities of dust are generated which cannot be kept within the permissible exposure limits by dust control equipment or other methods.

TRANSPORT

When the use of asbestos requires the transport of loose fiber in open carts or buggies, covers should be used to prevent spilling and dust generation.

WASTE MATERIALS

Waste materials, such as collected dust and empty fiber bags, should be placed in special closed receptacles and disposed of in such a manner as to prevent the release of dust. Safety practices outlined above in the **HANDLING** and **PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT** sections should be followed during these operations.

All dust from exhaust systems should be collected and safely disposed of, being careful not to release dust into the outside air. Particular attention should be paid to the protection of employees whose job it is to dispose of collected dust from fabric filter dust collection and similar cleaning operations.