

SECTION 6

PAINTS, COATINGS, AND SEALANTS

Asbestos is used in asphalt and tar bases for products such as roof sealants, waterproof coatings, and automobile undercoatings. Previous uses of asbestos in texture paints, spackle, and joint compounds have been banned. The asbestos fiber serves as a filler and reinforcing agent in these diverse products.

An acceptable substitute must be:

- Noncombustible
- Resistant to decay, many acids, and vermin
- Made up of long, flexible fibers
- Strong enough to reinforce other binders
- Unaffected by temperatures up to 500°C (automobile undercoating)
- Cost effective

There are no substitutes available that possess all the above attributes, but for applications where several of the characteristics are not necessary, a substitute may be applicable.

There are no commercially available asbestos-free, asphalt-based roofing, undercoating, or linings and chemical resistant coatings products that provide the properties of asphalt-based products. However, several companies report the availability of products in the premarket or early commercial stages. 26,27 For nonasphalt asbestos-based linings and chemically resistant coatings, several mineral reinforcing materials are available as substitutes for asbestos. Although use of asbestos in texture paints was banned in 1977, no substitutes of comparable quality have been found.

Table 8 presents a cost comparison for substitute materials used in sealant products.

TABLE 8. COST OF SUBSTITUTE MATERIALS COMPARED WITH GRADE 7 CHRYSOTILE ²²

Substitute	Cost (\$/pound)	Substitute	Cost (\$/pound)
Chrysotile	0.06-0.12	Barite	-
Fiberglass	0.40-0.50	Diatomite	-
Polypropylene	0.35	Silica	-
Cellulose	0.60	Clay	0.04-0.08
Cotton	0.20	Mica	0.05
Talc	0.06	Carbonate	0.04-0.08
		Nylon	0.60