Facts About Asbestos-Cement Pipe

CertainTeed

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

CT-269

Asbestos—an irreplaceable material.

Fact:

A/C pipe is one of more than 3,000 products containing asbestos that serve people beneficially worldwide. In many products, such as A/C pipe, brake linings, fire protection equipment, and textiles, asbestos is irreplaceable.

Fact:

Although asbestos represents only about 15% of the material used in A/C pipe, it contributes its tensile strength, almost five times greater than that of steel. It gives A/C pipe flexibility, excellent chemical resistance, and provides the taxpayer with a very cost-effective pipe material.

A/C pipe is used worldwide.

Fact:

A/C water pipe is recommended and installed in virtually every country in the world and in all 50 of the United States. Over 1,600,000 miles are in service worldwide, with 250,000 miles in the U.S. where over a quarter-billion dollars worth is installed annually. One-third of all U.S. water pipe in use today is A/C.

A/C pipe is safe to use.

Fact:

There is no evidence that anyone in the general public has ever contracted any disease from naturally-occuring asbestos found in most water systems.

Fact:

The release of asbestos fibers from A/C pipe is infinitesimal and is far less than the amount of fiber found in many natural-source drinking waters. This has been confirmed by government, industry, and scientific studies in the U.S. and abroad.

Fact:

Despite more than 40 years of rapidly increasing A/C pipe usage in the U.S., a 1977 American Cancer Society report: "Cancer Facts and Figures," states that "gastrointestinal cancer rates for all sites (where A/C pipe was being used) for the period 1952-54 and 1972-74 declined 33 percent."

A 1977 study in Connecticut said there was "no correlation between the incidence of GI cancer and the use of A/C water pipe."

Knoxville, Tenn., has been using A/C pipe since 1938. Nashville, Tenn., has no A/C pipe in its system. A study by HEW, NCI, and the National Institute of Health: "U.S. Cancer Mortality by County," showed that over a 20-year period, Nashville, with metallic pipe, had a 29 percent higher death rate from GI cancer than Knoxville, with A/C pipe.

Fact:

Asbestos fibers in A/C pipe are securely bound into the chemically stable cement and silica materials from which the pipe is formed.

The hazards of aggressive water

Fact:

Certain types of "aggressive" water will attack all water system components, even including corrosion-resistant A/C pipe, as well as metallic pipe and pipe installed in homes. Aggressive (very soft, highly acidic) water costs the U.S. waterworks industry a billion dollars annually in replacement and repair. No piping is suitable for use in highly aggressive water areas. The answer to aggressive water is to neutralize it at the source, regardless of the pipe materials used.

A/C pipe is safe to install

Fact:

Manufacturers and the water utility industry have made mass distribution of detailed work practices to contractors and installers of A/C water pipe. These present proven methods of cutting, beveling and tapping pipe to insure a safe work environment.

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