

FIBERGLAS
STANDARDS
OWENS-CORNING
FIBERGLAS
CORPORATION



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JUDGE PAUL A. ROY and GEORGE H. ROY
October 16, 1969. IN CASE NO. 10-1234
AT AL. 87-1234

F4.2.1
JANUARY, 1940

RECOMMENDED PRACTICES IN HANDLING FIBERGLAS PRODUCTS



Wear loose-fitting clothes, such as a cotton sweat shirt and ordinary pants.



Wash thoroughly before going home, using plenty of hot water and soap.

SO far as we have been able to determine through medical research and observation and study of men who have been working daily over a period of seven or eight years with Fiberglas® products of all kinds, this material of itself introduces no industrial hazards or occupational diseases either in its manufacture or subsequent handling and use.

The death record at our plant at Newark, Ohio is above the average for all Ohio industrial plants. Ordinary manufacturing precautions are exercised to safeguard machinery, to maintain good housekeeping conditions, and to reduce to a minimum the usual occupational hazards found in any normal manufacturing establishment.

Careful medical observation of the men who have been working constantly with Fiberglas material since its first commercial production in 1936 have revealed no indication whatever that such intimate and protracted exposure has any effect upon health.

Since it is not possible for any workman handling or using Fiberglas products in other establishments to accumulate so many hours and years of constant contact with this material, the health observations at our Newark plant may be taken as an indication that Fiberglas products introduce no apparent hazard to other industries in which they may be used.

On the contrary, the very nature of the material, its complete fire-safety, its cleanliness, its chemical stability, and its other characteristics constantly are contributing to safety when the material is in service.

SENSITIVE SKINS

Persons with sensitive skins who first handle Fiberglas material may experience an irritation not unlike that which is felt when a barber allows short hairs to fall down a man's neck, or when a person changes to coarse, woolen underwear. This irritation is purely mechanical and observation

has disclosed no resultant injury. Even sensitive skins soon become accustomed to contact with Fiberglas material so that after a few days of handling the material no further irritation is likely to be experienced. The cause of any such irritation can be quickly removed by washing the hands or body with hot water and plenty of milk soap.

RECOMMENDED PRACTICES

Though it is so wise essential for health, the following practices are recommended for the benefit of those who work constantly with Fiberglas products and have a sensitive skin:

1. Wear loose clothing, particularly around wrists, neck and waist. While ordinary workers' clothing may be used, a cotton sweat shirt and ordinary pants seem to be preferred.
2. Wash thoroughly before going home, preferably in a shower bath using plenty of hot water and soap.
3. It is not desirable to wear gloves, armlets, respirators, or other "protective" clothing or equipment, as there seems to be less irritation without them.
4. During particularly hot weather some persons with sensitive skins occasionally experience a slight irritation on their bodies from working constantly with Fiberglas products. Use ordinary rubbing alcohol or calamine lotion with 5% Phenol for the treatment of such irritations.
5. Since Fiberglas material is light in weight it usually may be handled without applying firm pressure or a strong grasp. This method of handling—by lightly supporting the material rather than grasping it—minimizes the tendency to develop surface irritations in the hands before the workman becomes immune.

Ordinarily, after working with Fiberglas material a few days, sensitivity to it disappears.

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