

5) Textiles

Asbestos content varies from 75 to 99%. It is usually blended with cotton, nylon, orlon, viscose fibers and fibrous glass.

theater curtains

ironing board covers

pot holders

6) Electrical equipment

insulating conductors

7) Filter media

gas masks

chemical processing (acid washes)

8) Filler material

plastics

paints

sealants (roofs, roads)

putties, caulking, crack fillers

Asbestos was first discovered and mentioned around 430 B.C. It was rediscovered around 1720 A.D. in Russia. Commercial production of this mineral did not start, however, until the 1870's. This occurred both in Canada and the U.S.S.R. with about 300 tons being mined in the first year. With other discoveries, annual production was up to 30,000 tons in 1910 and 500,000 tons in 1930. By 1968 annual production had exceeded 4,000,000 tons. The United States uses approximately 40% of the total asbestos mined.