

ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT

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Agency Urges Ban of Asbestos Paper

Asbestos paper used by some do-it-yourself homeowners is a possible cause of cancer and further sales should be banned, the Consumer Product Safety Commission said in Washington. Asbestos paper can be used to insulate heating ducts or to protect walls behind stoves against heat damage. The CPSC, which will vote on the recommendation April 9, was told by members of the commission's staff that tests by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health show the asbestos paper emits fibers that could be inhaled and later lead to cancer. Manufacturers have been asked to voluntarily halt the sales of the paper and one firm, GAF Corp., agreed.