

ASBESTOS/RESINOX

Asbestos was used in the production of Resinox (phenolic resins) soon after the operation began at the Springfield Plant in 1941. Asbestos was found in some of the Resinox formulations until 1958. At that time, the production process was changed for economic reasons and asbestos was no longer required. Today, the operation uses liquids and makes varnish resins of phenol and formaldehyde.

In late 1978, cases of asbestosis were discovered among Springfield Plant employees by the plant physician. This initiated an intensive program to follow up and survey all current and ex-employees who had worked in the Resinox Department and to communicate to them the implications of their exposure to asbestos. Those with positive tests are being monitored on an annual basis.

Asbestos is a fibrous mineral. Its uses include fireproof fabrics, brake linings and gaskets; electrical and heating insulation; rubber and plastics reinforcing agents.