

# ASBESTOS



**What is asbestos:** Asbestos is a term for certain fibrous-textured minerals used in industry. Asbestos attracted the attention for its resistance to heat, fire, tension, electrical and chemical aggressions, as well as its absorbency.

## It has been used in:

- many insulation and flocking, as well as in sheets, felt, glues, mastics and cardboard.
- cement products (asbestos cement) or in various binders (glues, paints, joints, gypsum mortars, bituminous concrete, friction materials and even road asphalt, sealing, etc.).
- brake pads or boiler pads, electric ovens and in various electrical installations (e.g.: hot plates) for its electrical insulation capabilities at high temperatures.
- extensively in buildings for its flame retardant, insulating properties, flexibility, tensile strength and sometimes chemical resistance.

## Before 1980:

Many homes built before 1980 contain asbestos: in old floor tiles, ceiling tiles, roof shingles and flashing, siding, insulation (around boilers, ducts, pipes, sheeting, fireplaces), pipe cement, and joint compound used on seams between pieces of sheet rock.

Every home/business owner must therefore take the necessary steps to protect the health of anyone living or working in the premises!

## Demonstration:

Insulating material are presumed to contain asbestos unless demonstrated otherwise by:

- a technical description or a material safety data sheet, which establishes the composition of flocking and heat insulating material or the date of their installation; or
- A sampling report which contains the following information:
  1. the name and qualification of the person responsible for the sampling report; for each flocking and heat insulating material, a list of the samples taken and their location;
  2. the analysis report of the samples;
  3. the analysis method used; and
  4. the name and address of the laboratory having carried out the analyses and the identification of the inter laboratory quality control program in which the laboratory participates.

## After 1980

For the purposes of this subdivision, gypsum boards and joint compounds manufactured after 1 January 1980 are deemed not to contain asbestos.

## Ressources

- For more information concerning Quebec legislation regarding asbestos please contact the CNESST <http://www.csst.qc.ca>
- For more information about location, demonstration, sampling report and exclusions: QCC: Chapter S-2.1, r. 13.