

CHRYSOTILE ASBESTOS-CEMENT PRODUCTS

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Modern Usage

of

Chrysotile Asbestos Cement

Its Impact on the

General Environment

Modern Usage of Chrysotile Asbestos Cement

Once chrysotile fibers are bound to the cement matrix, emission of free respirable fibers is negligible;

Fiber concentrations around sites are undistinguishable from those found in the general environment.

At these levels, no adverse health effects have ever been reported.

When chrysotile is used in a responsible manner...

Compared to products from metallurgy
and from petrochemistry...

Less energy is used...

Compared to products coming from the petrochemical or metallurgical processes, asbestos-cement products consume much less energy; in fact, the largest proportion of energy consumption goes into the production of cement.

When chrysotile is used in a responsible manner...

Compared to products from metallurgy
and from petrochemistry...

Manufacture is likely less hazardous

Composition of high density asbestos-cement products is uniquely simple, and technology is readily available to developing countries, without resorting to the use of more complex ingredients, whose safe handling may present difficulties far greater than those required for the controlled manufacture of asbestos-cement products.

When chrysotile is used in a responsible manner...

Compared to products from metallurgy
and from petrochemistry...

Transportation and storage is less hazardous

Transportation and storage of asbestos-cement products does require appropriate care, but efficient and recognized practices are simple and straightforward. The safe storage/transportation of many other products is usually far more complex and potentially dangerous, in particular for petrochemicals.

Modern Usage of Chrysotile Asbestos Cement

Disposal of rejects / demolition is simple

The safe disposal of many modern products has become an environmental and economical nightmare, often requiring specially designed and costly disposal sites and techniques. They must be monitored constantly to prevent leakage of contaminating substances into the environment. Waste management is complex and expensive for such substances. In contrast, asbestos-cement waste disposal is inexpensive, simple, safe, and recognized practices are well known.

All things considered...

**Chrysotile-cement is
far more environment-friendly
than products derived from
metallurgy and petrochemistry**

NO CONTROL

HAZARD NOT RECOGNIZED

IRRESPONSIBLE APPROACH

All fibrous materials:

Long, thin, durable

Natural

Synthetic

Mineral

Organic

Are biologically active

Workers and general population at risk.

CONTROLLED USE

HAZARD RECOGNIZED

RESPONSIBLE APPROACH

Based on scientific evidence;

Implies:

-regulation, implementation,

-dust control, monitoring,

-medical surveillance,

-education,

-training.

Allows society to benefit safely from cost-efficient material.

BAN

HAZARD RECOGNIZED

<<LAZY MAN WAY>>

Incentive to resort to uncontrolled alternatives

Deprives society of much needed materials.