

ACM Dictionary

First edition



Victorian Asbestos
Eradication Agency



The VAEA acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we live and work. We respect their Elders and their continuous connection to Country.

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Ease of fibre release

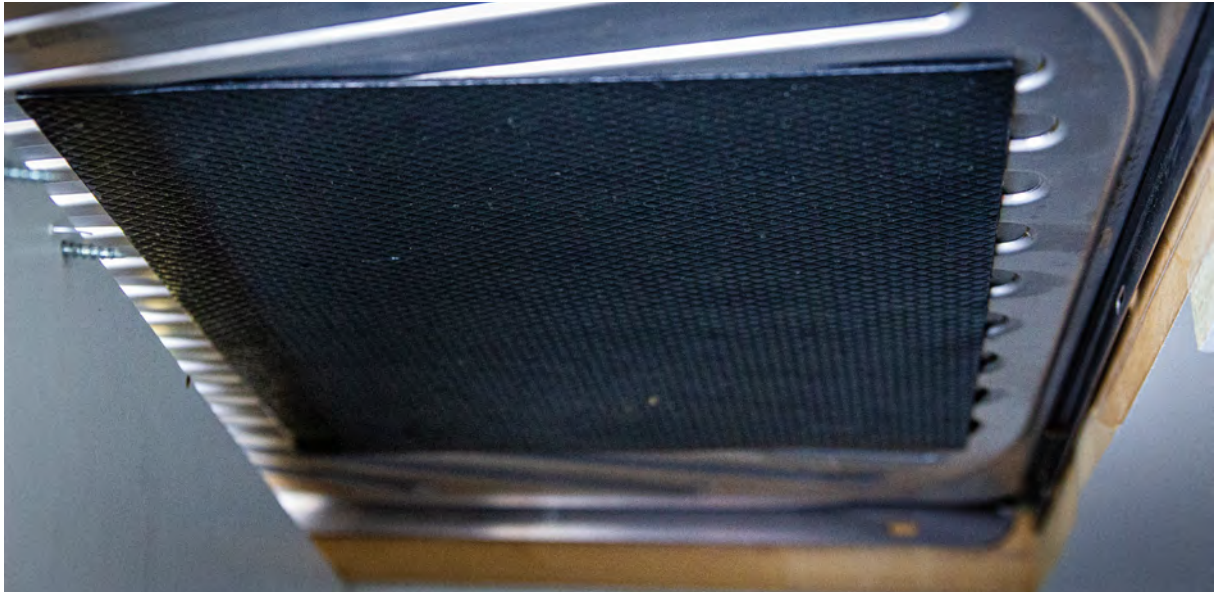
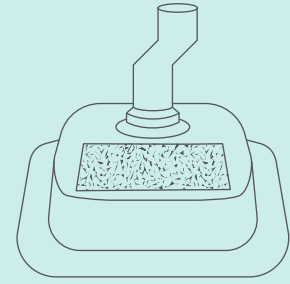
This scale indicates the ease of an asbestos-containing material's (ACM) fibre release.

Level 1 represents the lowest likelihood of fibre release, Level 10 the highest likelihood. Ease of fibre release is one of 4 key factors the VAEA uses to determine an ACM's overall risk rating.

Ease of fibre release

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	NA
Lowest										Highest

Acoustic pad



Description

A sound-dampening material consisting of asbestos fibres mixed into a bituminous rubber-like matrix that acts as an acoustic dampener. Typically found attached to the underside of the bowl or drain boards of stainless steel sinks.

Related terms / Alternative names

Bitumen

Also see

[Bitumen coating](#)

[Bituminous membrane](#)

[Malthoid](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

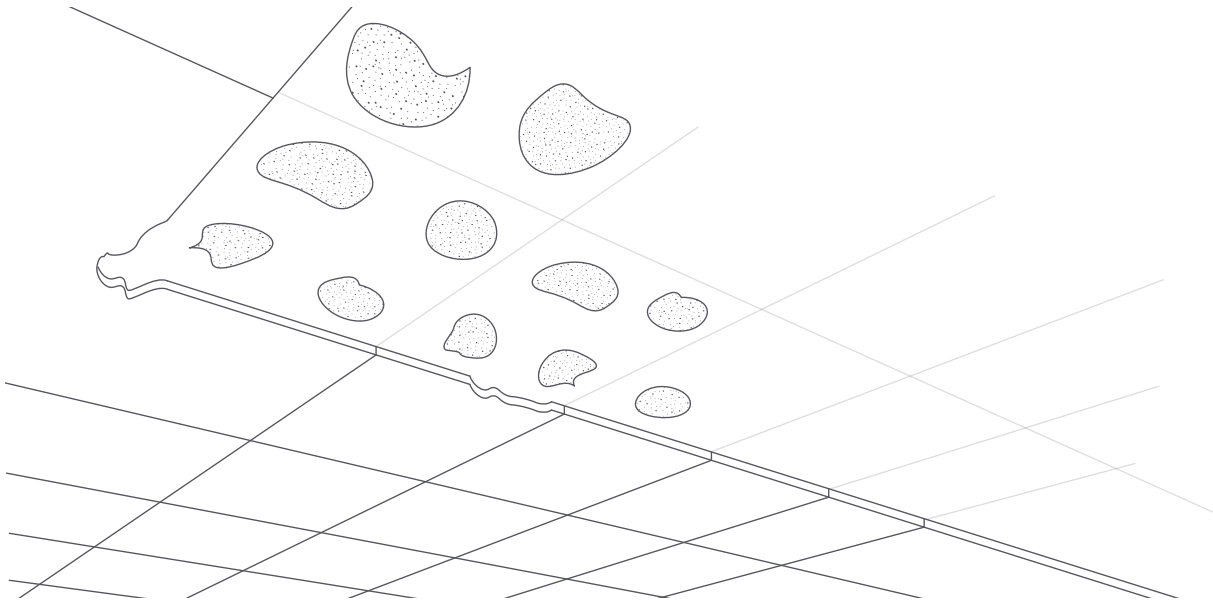
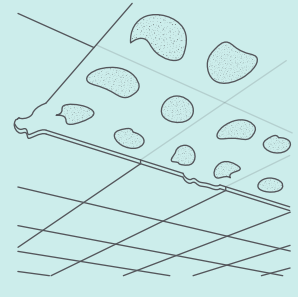
Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

Adhesive or glue



Description

Used to adhere objects or materials. Asbestos fibres have been added to adhesives for their physical properties. Asbestos-containing adhesives were commonly used to adhere tiles to a surface (e.g. walls, floors, ceilings).

Also see

[Bituminous adhesive \(Blackjack\)](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

Ease of fibre release

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

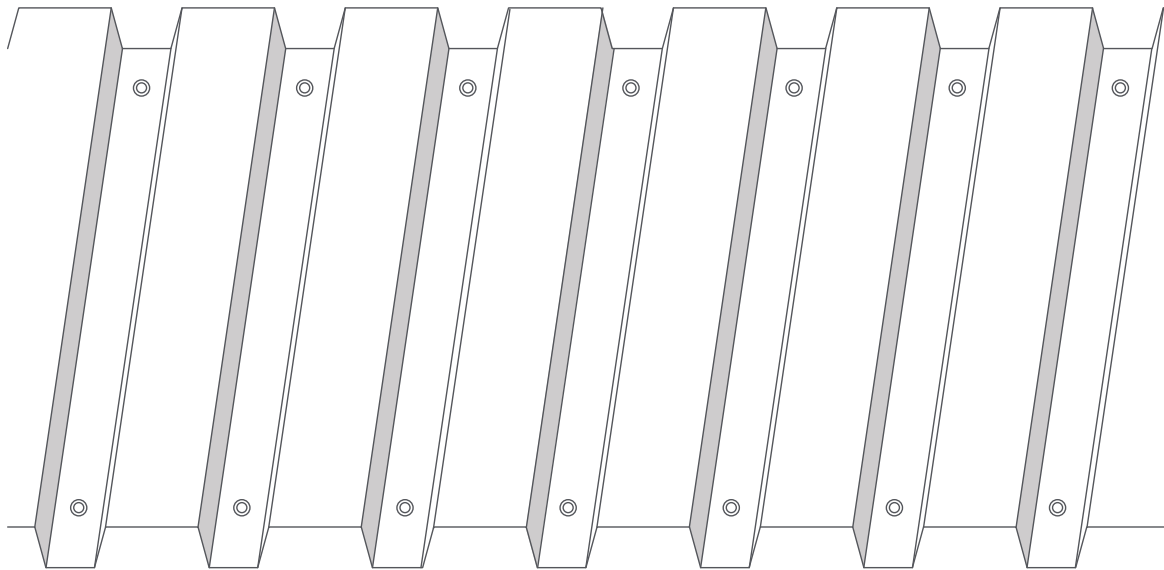
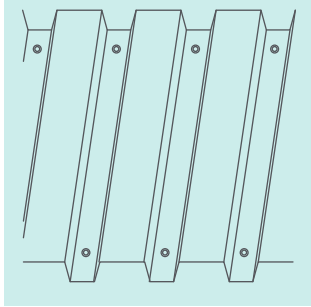
10

NA

Lowest

Highest

Asbestos-coated metal sheet (Galbestos)



Description

A composite layered material of steel, bitumen, asbestos and polyester known commonly as Galbestos. This material is typically used as roofing and siding panels of industrial buildings. During manufacture, metal cladding was hot-dip galvanized; while the zinc was still molten, asbestos felt was pressed into the surface to form a mechanical bond between the zinc and the asbestos. The sheet was then impregnated with asphalt under pressure and heat encapsulating the asbestos fibres, and included a final protective coating of asphalt or hot melt polyester colour coating as an additional weather coat. Galbestos was the most common bitumen-lined metal cladding product, manufactured by HH Robertson Company.

Also see

[Profiled roof sheeting](#)

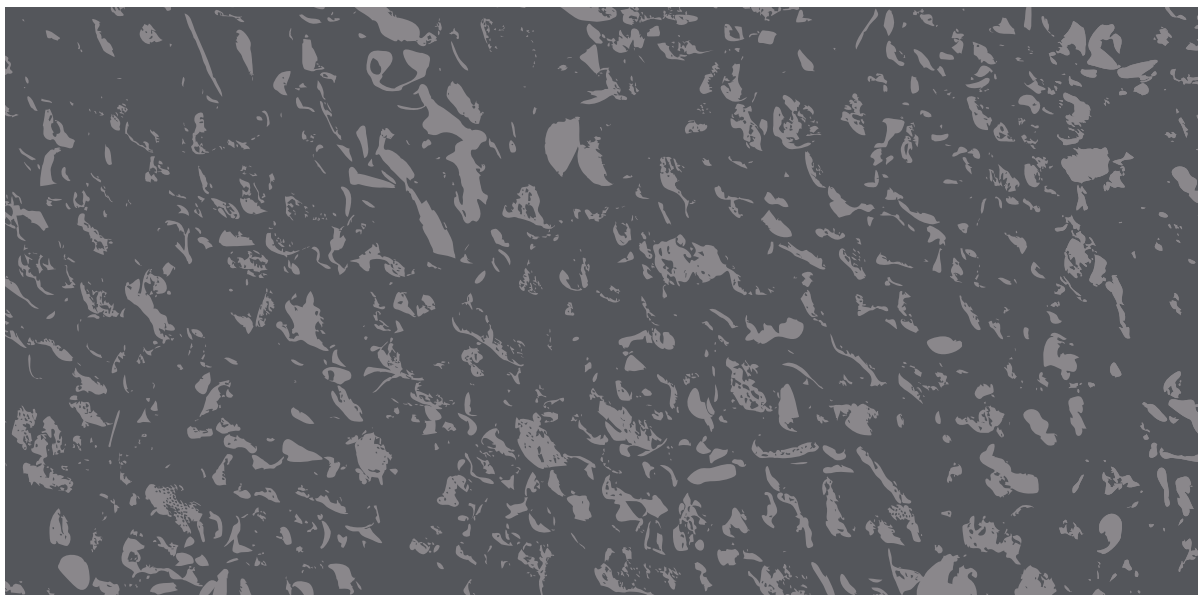
Friability

Non-friable	Friable	Non-asbestos
-------------	---------	--------------

Ease of fibre release

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	NA	
Lowest											Highest

Asphalt



Description

Dark bituminous pitch mixed with aggregates such as sand or gravel, used for surfacing roads, flooring, roofing, etc. Asphalt is unlikely to contain asbestos in Australia.

Related terms / Alternative names

Bitumen

Also see

[Bitumen coating](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

Ease of fibre release

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

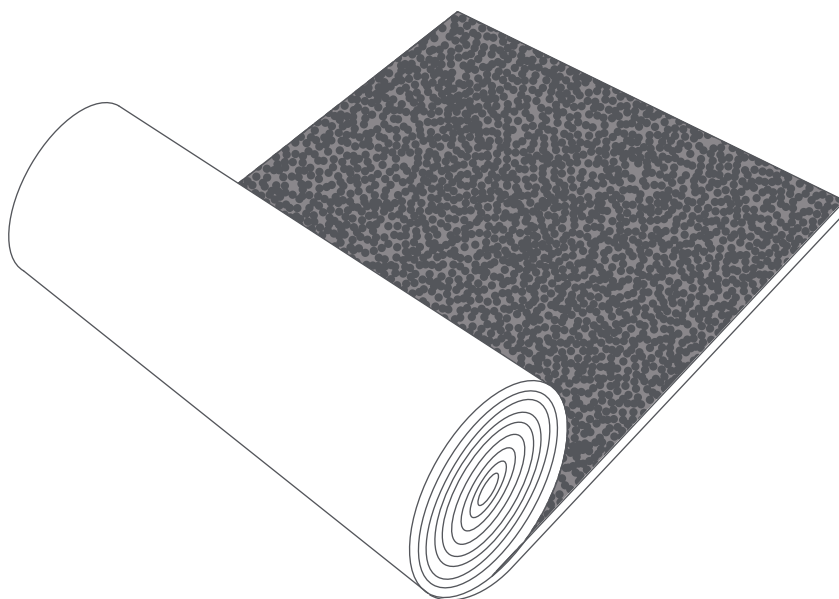
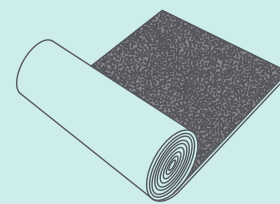
10

NA

Lowest

Highest

Bitumen-coated paper



Description

Paper coated in bitumen, used for electrical or heat insulation or incorporated as a lining, facing or reinforcement of other products.

Related terms / Alternative names

Bitumen

Tar paper

Textiles

Also see

[Paper](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

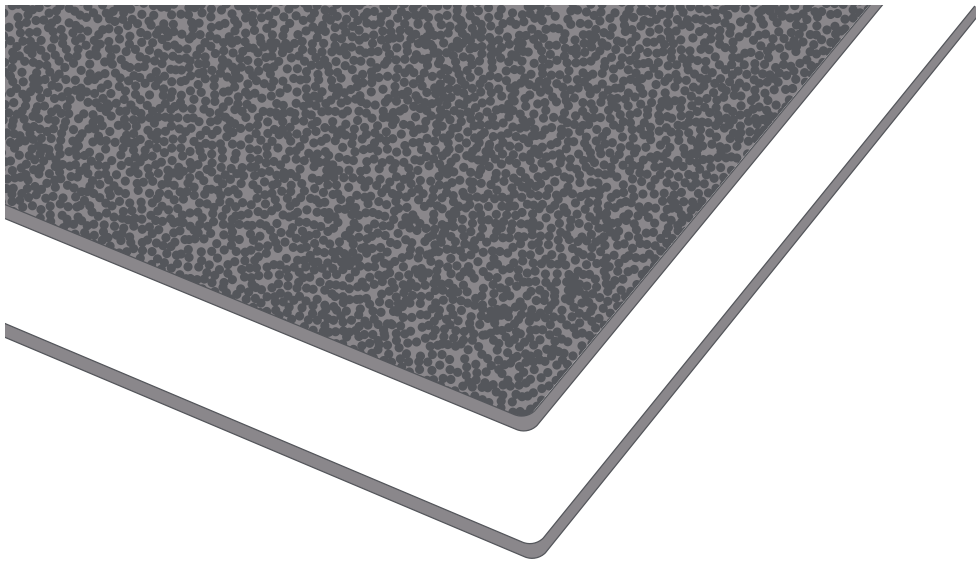
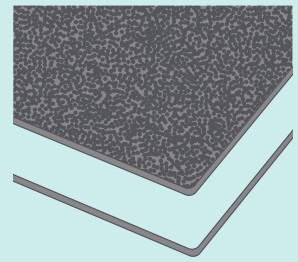
Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

Bitumen-coated polystyrene



Description

Polystyrene coated in bitumen, typically used as a sealant and insulation product for pipework, tanks or other industrial plants. Asbestos fibres can be found within the bituminous coating.

Related terms / Alternative names

Bitumen

Insulation

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

Ease of fibre release

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

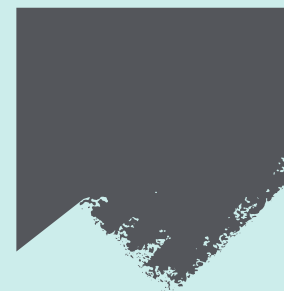
10

NA

Lowest

Highest

Bitumen coating



Description

A bituminous coating applied to the surface of an object for waterproofing or sound-dampening purposes. Commonly found as an acoustic dampener to the back of a urinal or the underside of a sink.

Also see

[Bituminous membrane](#)

[Malthoid](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

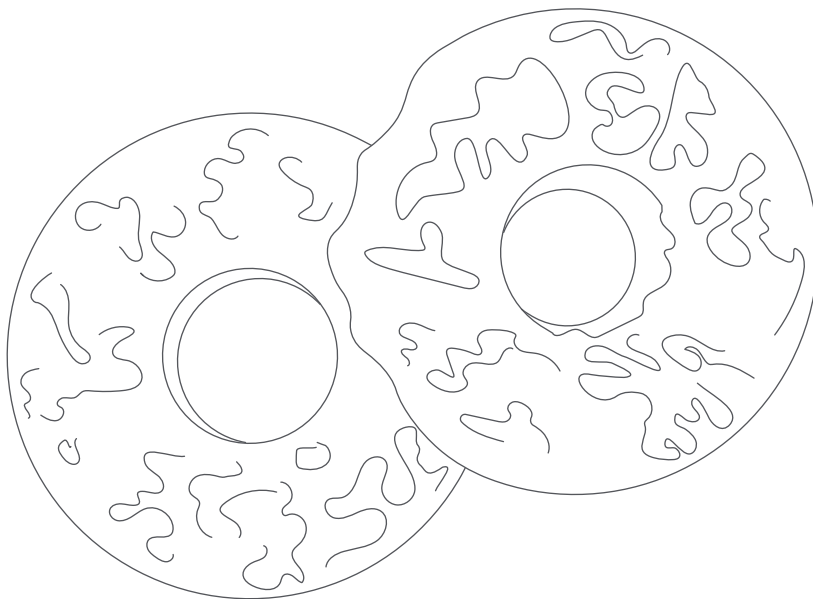
Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

Bitumen washer



Description

An asbestos-containing bituminous washer. These are commonly found between corrugated cement sheet and the affixing screw-head on industrial buildings.

Related terms / Alternative names

Bitumen

Washers

Also see

[Gaskets](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

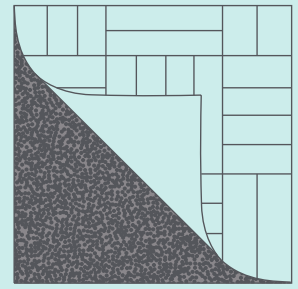
Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

Bituminous adhesive (Blackjack)



Description

A bituminous adhesive mixed with asbestos fibres and commonly used as an adhesive to fix vinyl tiles (often asbestos-containing) to floors and walls.

Also see

[Adhesive or glue](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

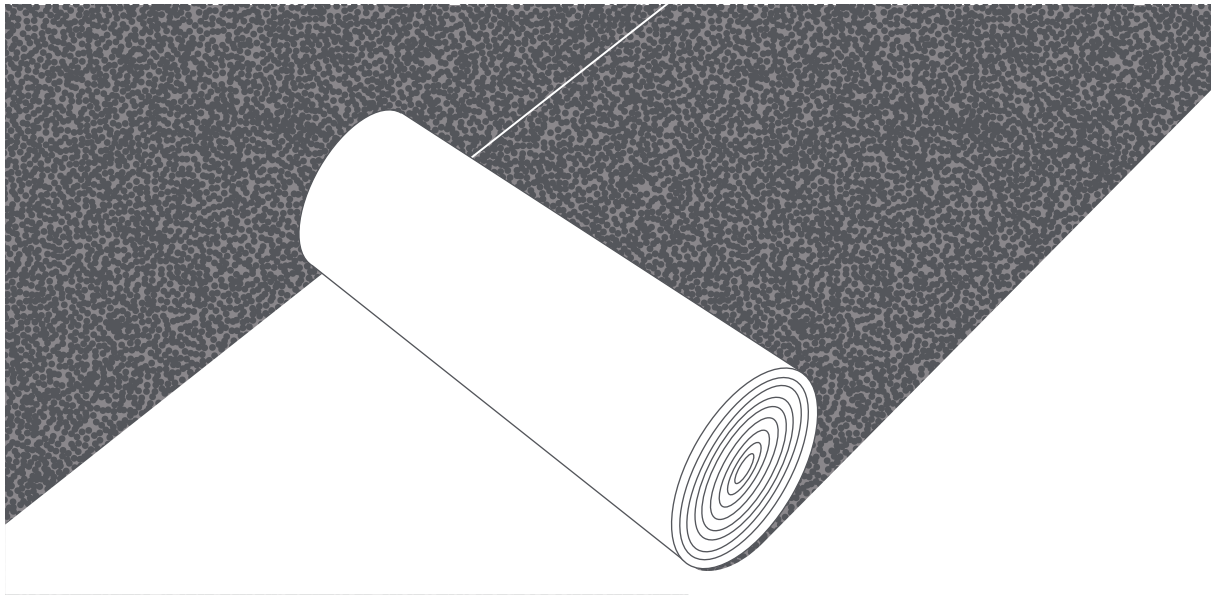
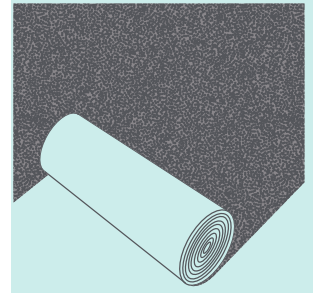
Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

Bituminous membrane



Description

A waterproofing membrane is a sheet or layer of water-tight material laid over a surface. This layer is continuous and prevents water from passing through it. Waterproofing membranes are often laid above structural slabs and may be concealed below decorative elements and finishing materials.

Related terms / Alternative names

Bitumen

Waterproofing

Also see

[Bitumen coating](#)

[Malthoid](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

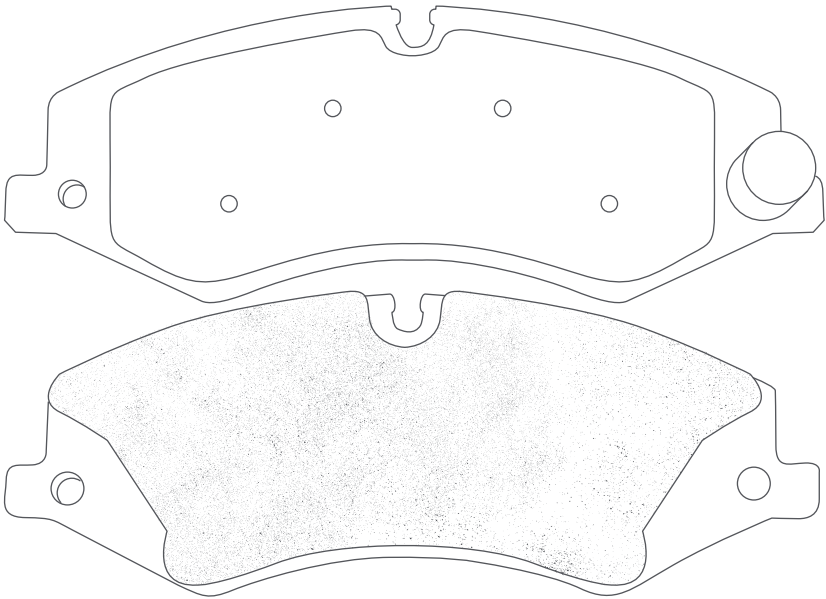
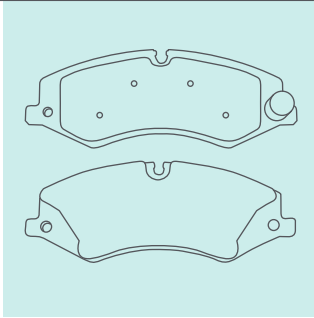
Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

Brake pads



Description

The internal component of a brake system that applies pressure to create friction. Normal use results in the degradation of the rubber-like matrix, resulting in the release of asbestos fibres and associated asbestos-contaminated dust on the surrounding surfaces.

Related terms / Alternative names

Bendix

Also see

[Clutch plates](#)

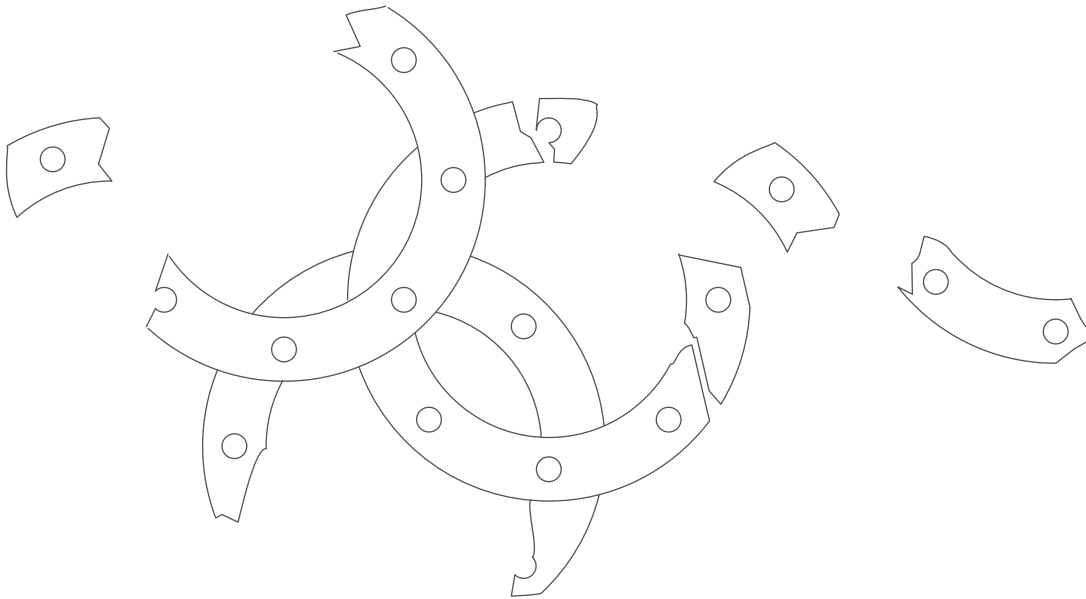
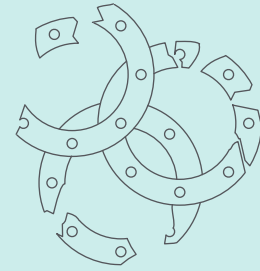
Friability

Non-friable	Friable	Non-asbestos
-------------	---------	--------------

Ease of fibre release

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	NA
Lowest										Highest

CAF gasket debris



Description

Compressed asbestos fibre (CAF) gasket material that has been disturbed or degraded and, as a result, forms broken or scattered pieces.

Also see

[Flange gaskets](#)

[Gaskets](#)

[Rubber gasket](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

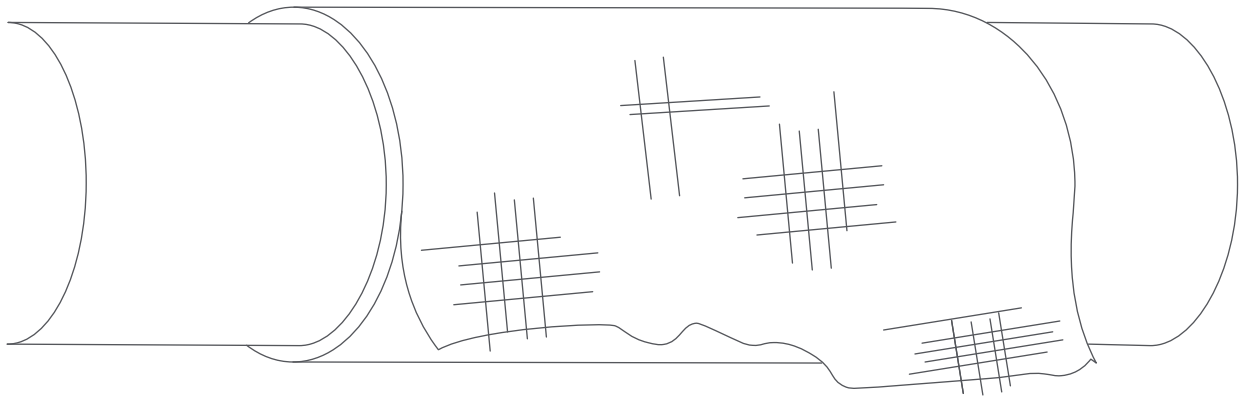
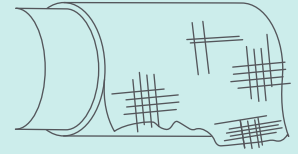
Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

Calico wrap



Description

A plain, woven textile made from unbleached semi-processed cotton. Typically a non-asbestos product, but commonly used to encapsulate friable asbestos pipe lagging or insulation. In this instance, the calico wrap itself is contaminated and, therefore, treated in the same way as the asbestos lagging.

Related terms / Alternative names

Textiles

Also see

[Pipe-lagging residues](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

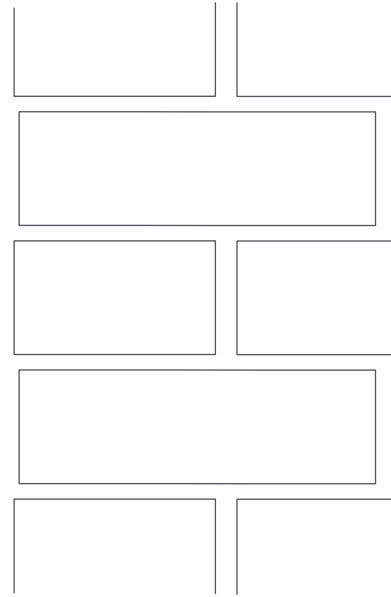
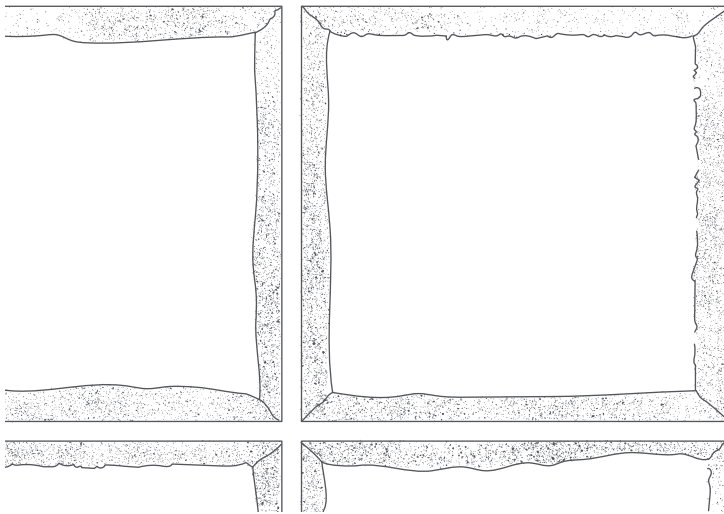
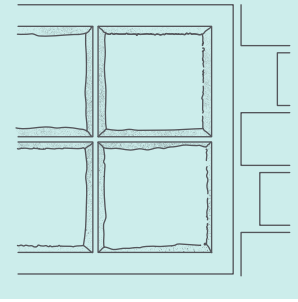
Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

Caulking



Description

A sealant material used on joins and seams. Asbestos fibres have been incorporated historically. Asbestos-containing caulks commonly used as sealants between glass window panes and their associated frames.

Related terms / Alternative names

Window mastic

Window putty

Also see

[Mastic](#)

[Putty](#)

Friability

Non-friable

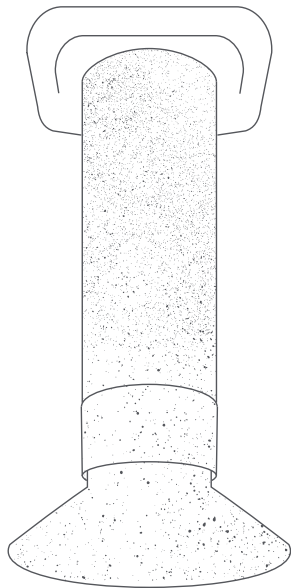
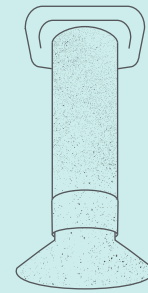
Friable

Non-asbestos

Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA
Lowest Highest

Cement flue



Description

A moulded cement pipe used as a duct or tube to transport gases or vapours such as smoke, steam or other unwanted fumes. Asbestos-containing cement flues were commonly used as exhausts for hot water units and sanitary incinerators and may be found within wall and ceiling cavities, extending externally to the roof or exterior of a building.

Related terms / Alternative names

Cement

Also see

[Cement pipe](#)

[Moulded cement products](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

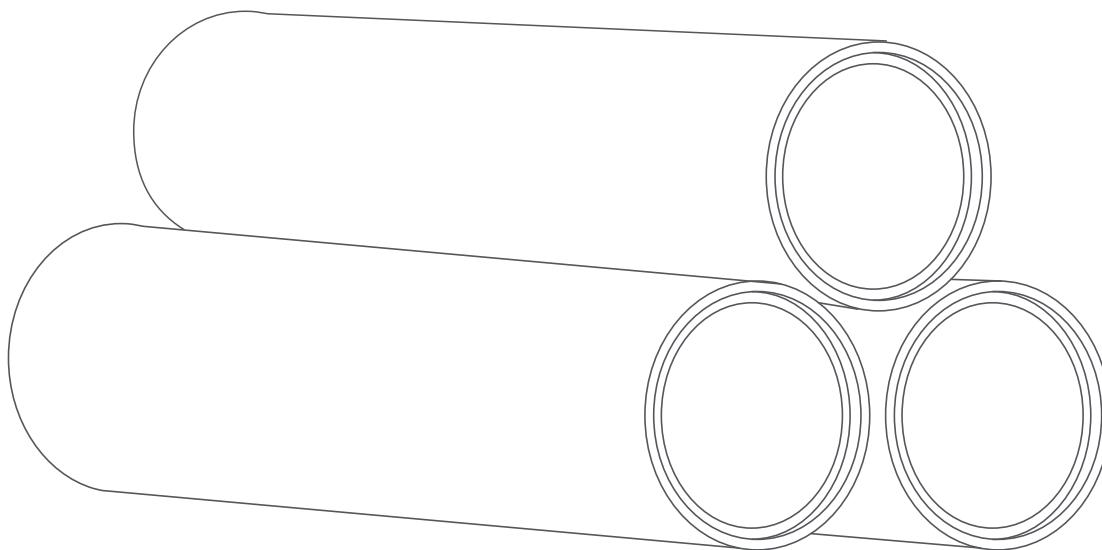
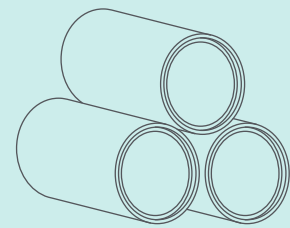
Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

Cement pipe



Description

A moulded cement product. Asbestos-containing cement pipes are commonly installed underground or in a building's structure, and are often used as an electrical cable conduit or to transport drinking water, stormwater or wastewater.

Related terms / Alternative names

Cement

Also see

[Cement flue](#)

[Moulded cement products](#)

[Rainwater guttering](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

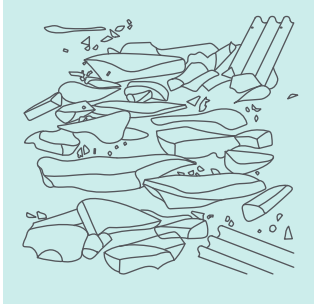
Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

Cement product debris



Description

Fragments of a source asbestos-containing cement material as a result of degradation.

Also see

- [Dust](#)
- [Dust and debris](#)

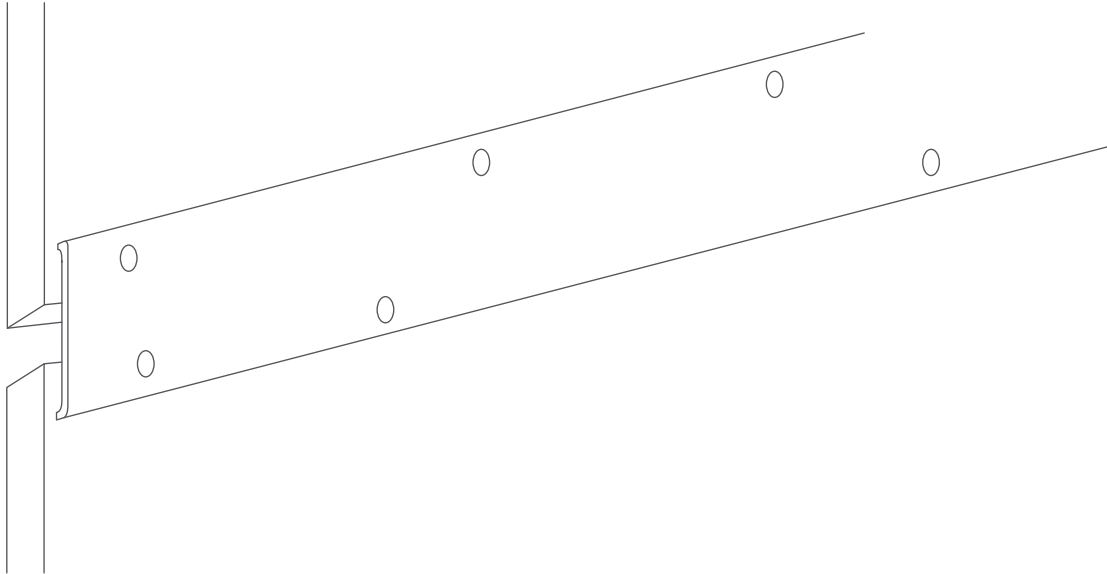
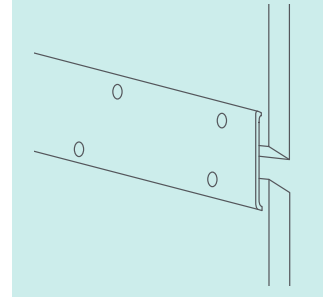
Friability

Non-friable	Friable	Non-asbestos
-------------	---------	--------------

Ease of fibre release

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	NA	
Lowest											Highest

Cement strapping



Description

Moulded cement product or a slim strip of sheeting used to cover material joins. Commonly used to cover the join between two cement sheet panels in wall, ceiling and eave linings.

Related terms / Alternative names

Cement

Also see

[Flat sheeting](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

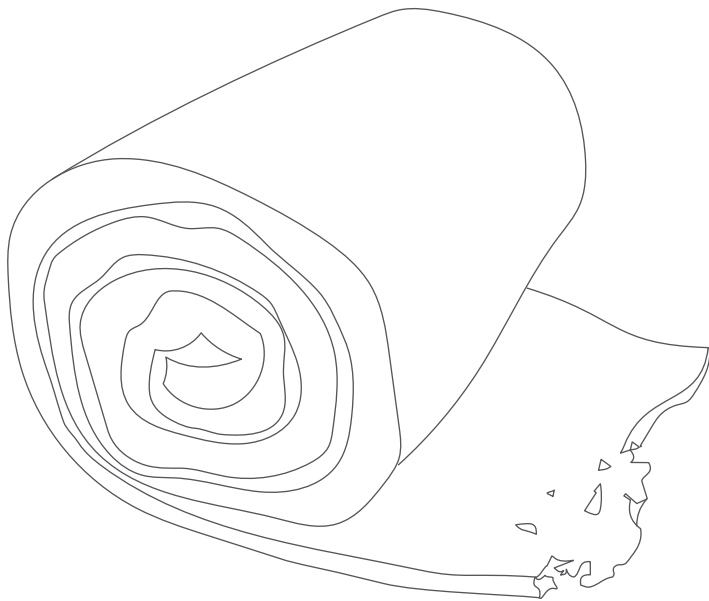
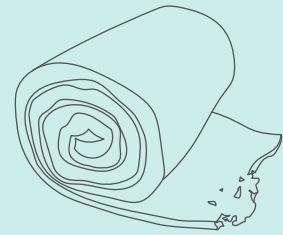
Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

Ceramic fibre



Description

This non-asbestos material consists of a small-dimension filament or thread composed of a ceramic material, usually alumina or silica, and is used in lightweight units for electrical, thermal or sound insulation. Can be found in applications and locations as an alternative to asbestos materials.

Related terms / Alternative names

Insulation

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

Ease of fibre release

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

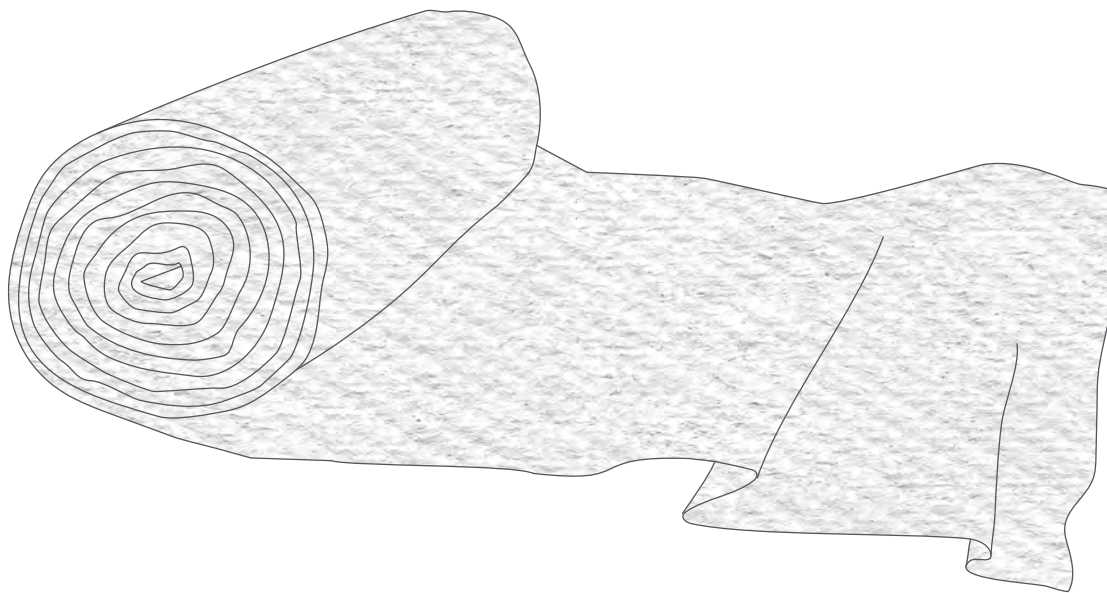
10

NA

Lowest

Highest

Cloth



Description

Because of its fibrous nature, raw asbestos could be spun and woven into textile cloths and garments. This cloth was resistant to high temperatures, flames, electrical fires and corrosive substances, making it useful for heat-protective clothing, gloves, aprons, etc.

Related terms / Alternative names

Insulation

Textiles

Also see

[Woven products](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

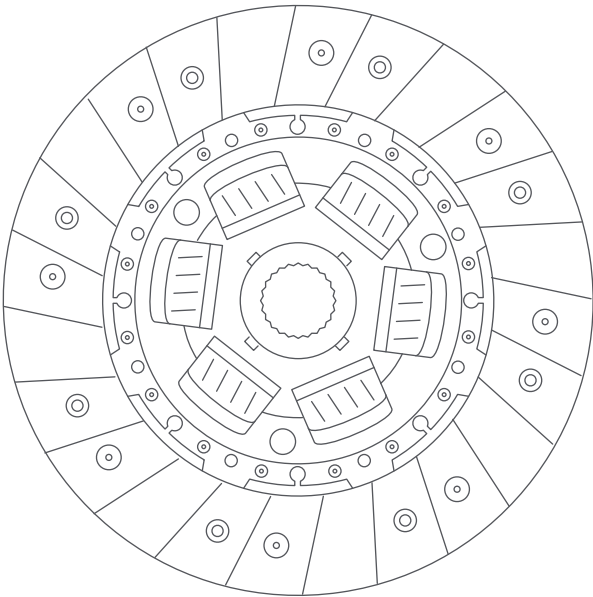
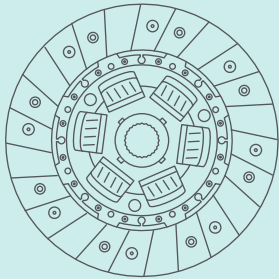
Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

Clutch plates



Description

The internal component of a clutch system that applies pressure to create friction. Normal use results in associated dusts collecting in the plant or equipment.

Related terms / Alternative names

Friction products

Also see

[Brake pads](#)

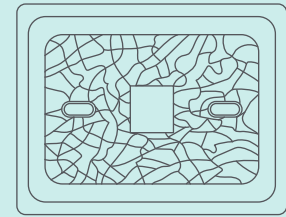
Friability

Non-friable	Friable	Non-asbestos
-------------	---------	--------------

Ease of fibre release

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	NA
Lowest										Highest

Communications pit



Description

A prefabricated moulded cement sheet tube, typically oval or rectangular, installed underground, allowing for inspection and distribution of telecommunication assets (e.g. underground electrical cabling and conduits). It was common for these pits to be moulded from asbestos-containing cement.

Related terms / Alternative names

Cement
PMG
Telstra pit

Also see

[Moulded cement sheeting](#)

Friability

Non-friable

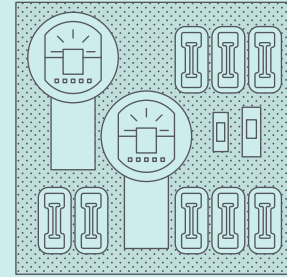
Friable

Non-asbestos

Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA
Lowest Highest

Compressed electrical panels



Description

Bituminous composite material flattened by pressure into a board or panel. Commonly mixed with asbestos fibres for its insulating properties. These are typically found in an electrical cupboard alongside other associated asbestos-containing materials (e.g. cement sheet, millboard lining the timber frame on which the switchboard is mounted, other electrical components).

Related terms / Alternative names

Ausbestos	Bitumen
Electrical backing board (EBB)	
Lebah	Miscolite
Switchboard	Zelemite

Also see

Electrical arc shields	Fuse holder
HRC fuse	
Millboard	

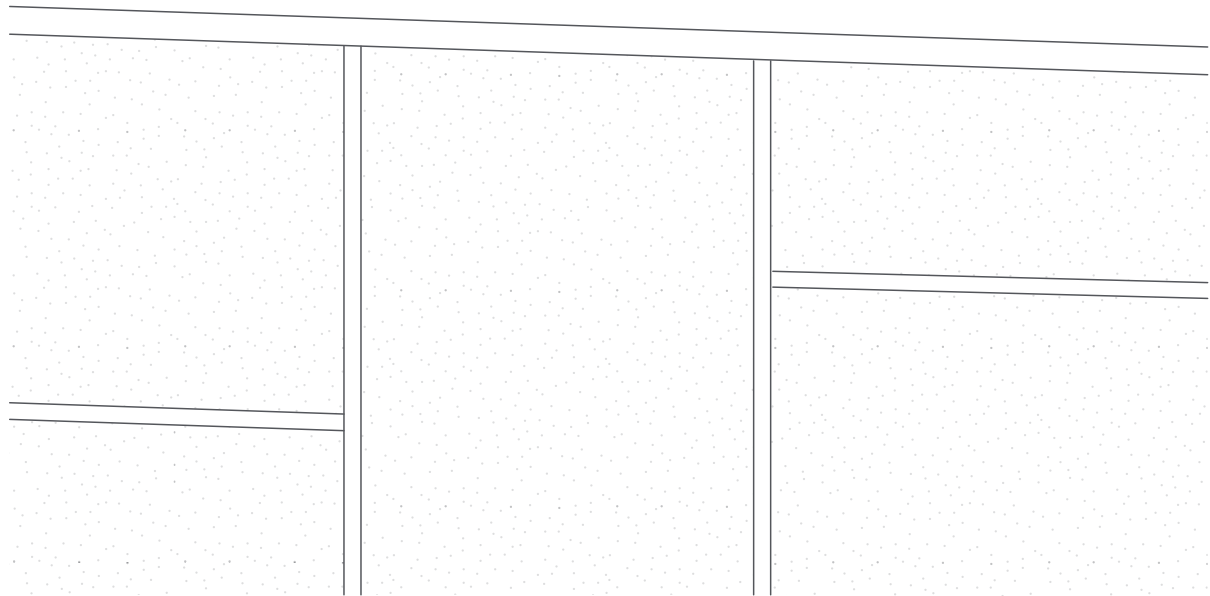
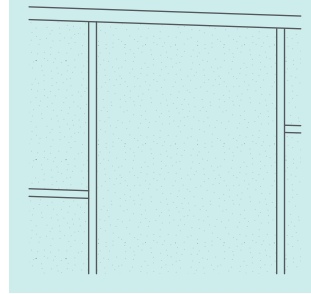
Friability

Non-friable	Friable	Non-asbestos
-------------	---------	--------------

Ease of fibre release

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	NA
Lowest								Highest		

Compressed flat sheeting



Description

Compressed cement sheet has a smooth, flat surface and a square-edge finish, commonly thicker than cement sheet; it was available in a variety of profiles up to 24mm. It is a dense, high-strength, durable building product commonly found as bathroom partitions and porch flooring.

Related terms / Alternative names

Cement

Hardie Board

James Hardie

Also see

[Flat sheeting](#)

[Laminated cement sheeting](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

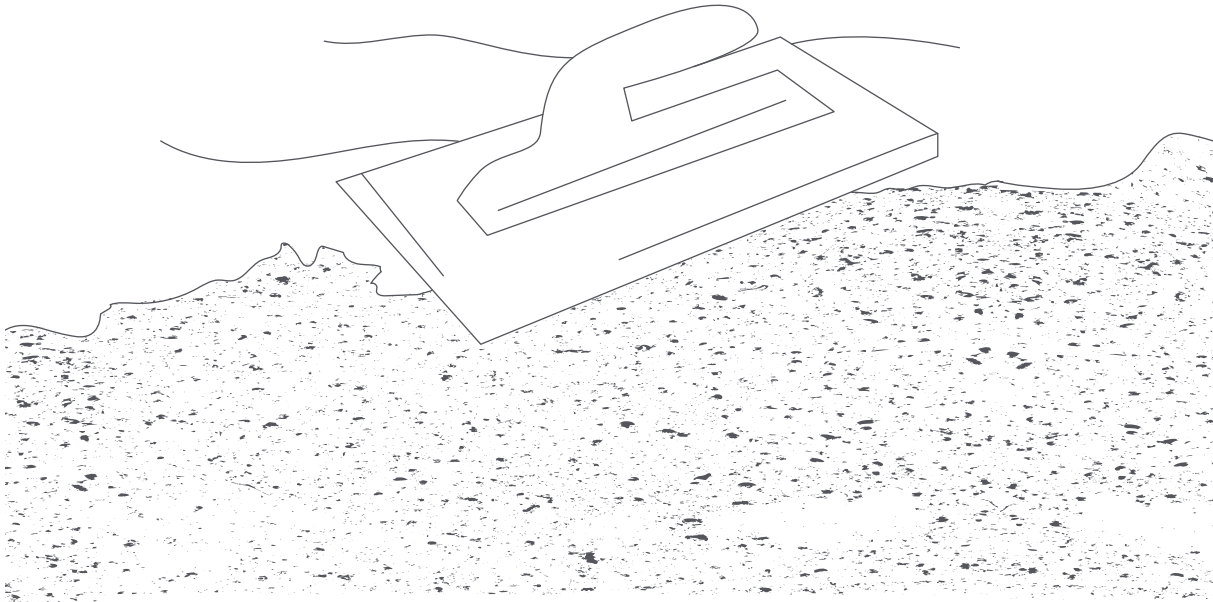
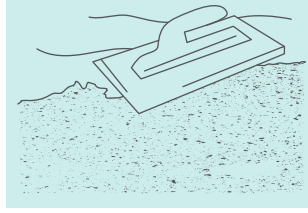
Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

Concrete levelling compound



Description

Levelling compound is a composite material comprising aggregate bonded in a fluid cement that hardens over time. Similar to other cement products of the time, asbestos fibres were incorporated in the mixture. Asbestos-containing concrete levelling compounds are most commonly found between concrete slabs and a decorative floor covering.

Related terms / Alternative names

Screed

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

Ease of fibre release

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

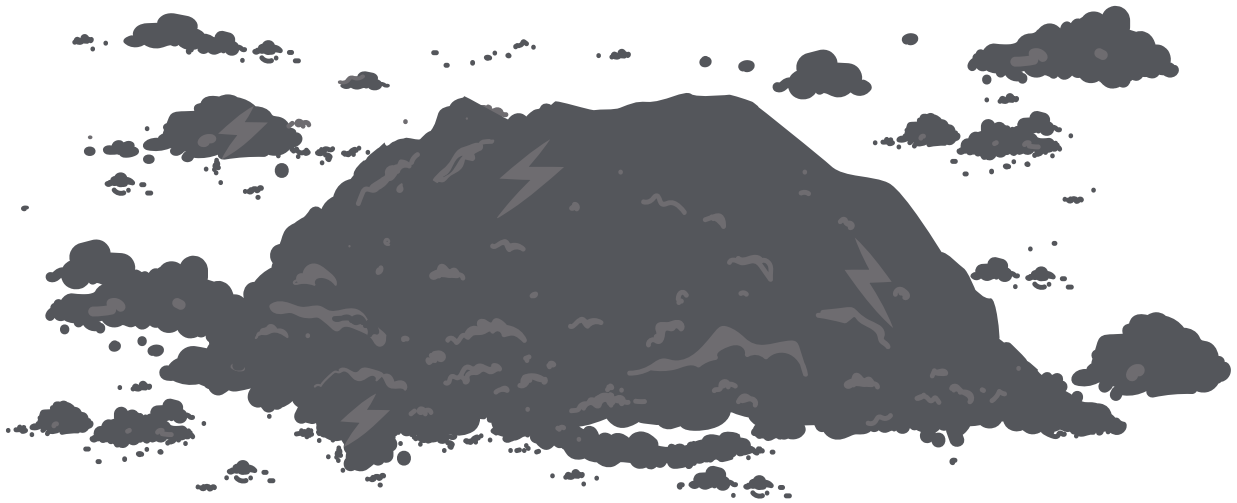
9

10

NA

Lowest

Highest

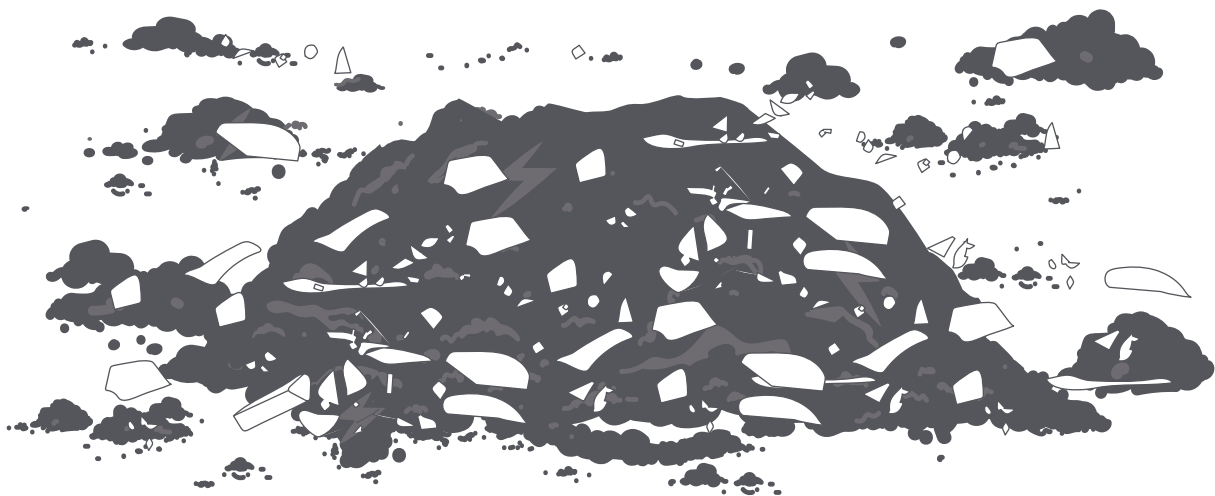


Contaminated soil (non-friable debris)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

lowest Highest

Contaminated soil (non-friable debris)



Description

Soil that has become contaminated with non-friable asbestos-containing material.

Also see

[Contaminated soil \(friable debris\)](#)

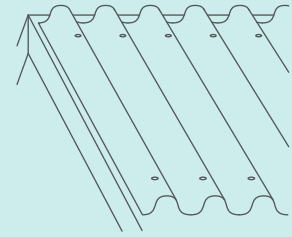
Friability

Non-friable	Friable	Non-asbestos
-------------	---------	--------------

Ease of fibre release

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	NA	
Lowest											Highest

Corrugated roof sheeting



Description

Asbestos-containing cement sheet with corrugations (can be rounded, or trapezoid in shape). Used as roof cladding. Commonly found on industrial buildings, but also found on domestic and commercial buildings. Often found with associated moulded asbestos-containing cement roofing materials such as barge capping, ridge capping, gutters, downpipes, flashings, etc. Degradation often leads to asbestos-contaminated dust accumulation on surfaces below the roof, rainwater deposits in gutters or at the base of incorrectly sumped downpipes.

Related terms / Alternative names

Cement

Standard

Also see

[Flat sheeting](#)

[Moulded cement sheeting](#)

[Profiled roof sheeting](#)

[Rainwater guttering](#)

[Ridge capping](#)

[Valley gutters](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

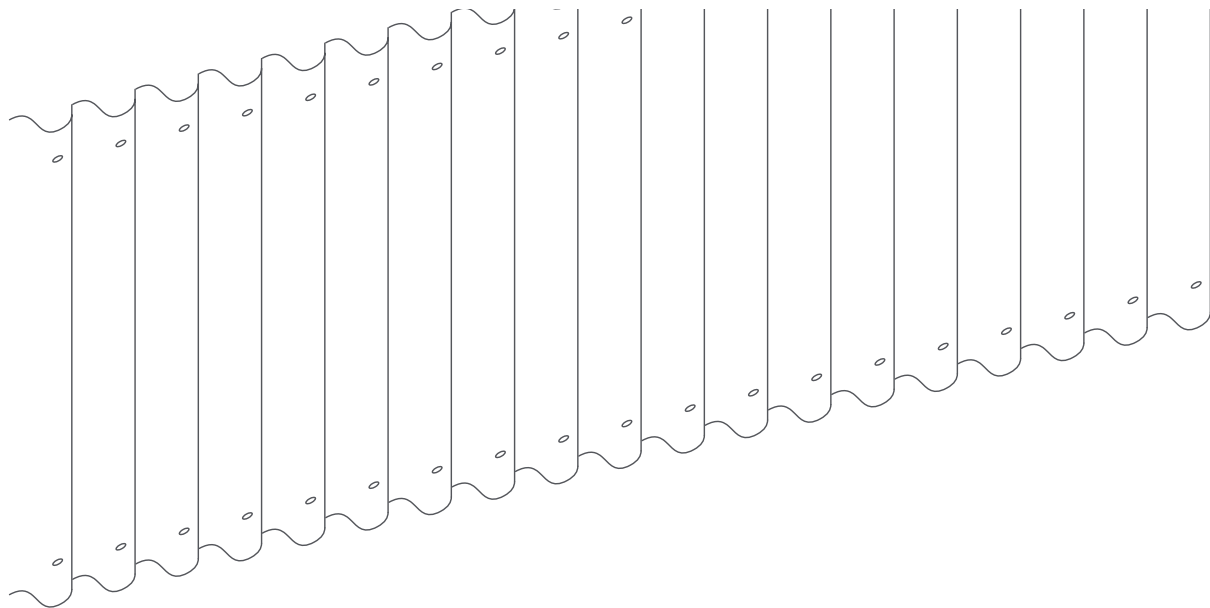
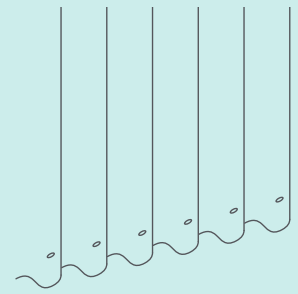
Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

Corrugated sheeting



Description

Asbestos-containing cement sheet with corrugations (can be rounded or trapezoid in shape). Typically external applications in industrial settings. Other external applications include fencing, garden retaining walls, and cladding to outbuildings.

Related terms / Alternative names

Super Six

Also see

[Corrugated roof sheeting](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

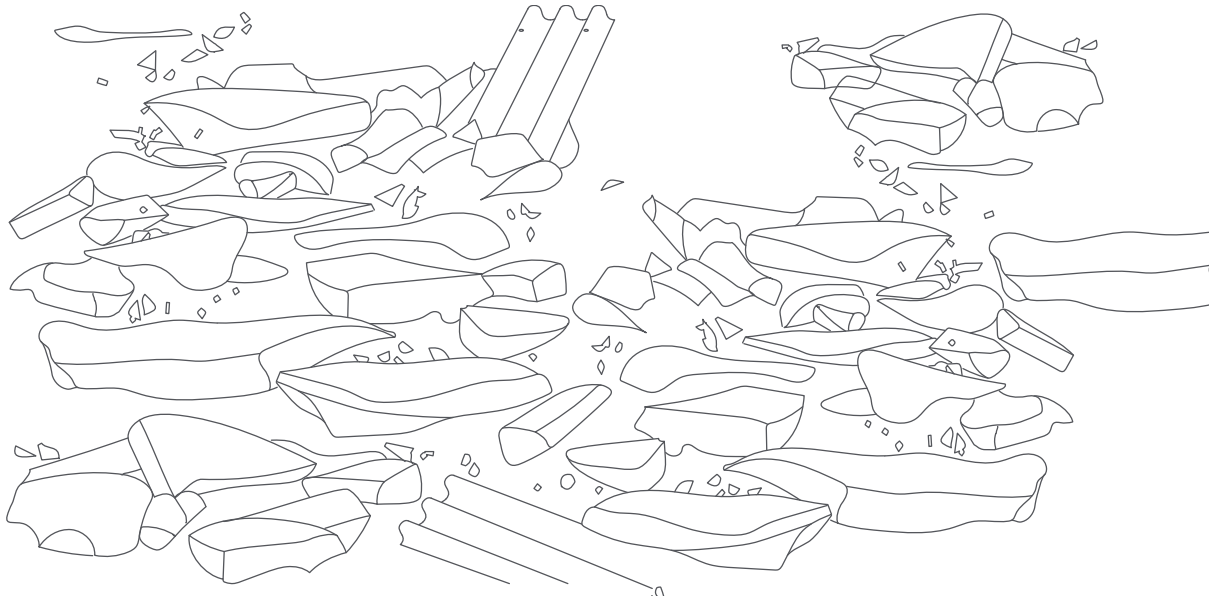
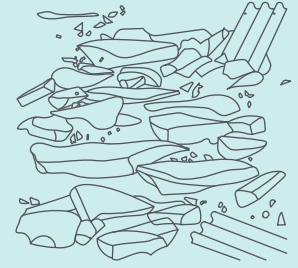
Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

Debris



Description

A general term for the fragments of a damaged or degraded source material. Asbestos debris can be found in many forms and friabilities depending on the source material.

Also see

[Dust](#)

[Dust and debris](#)

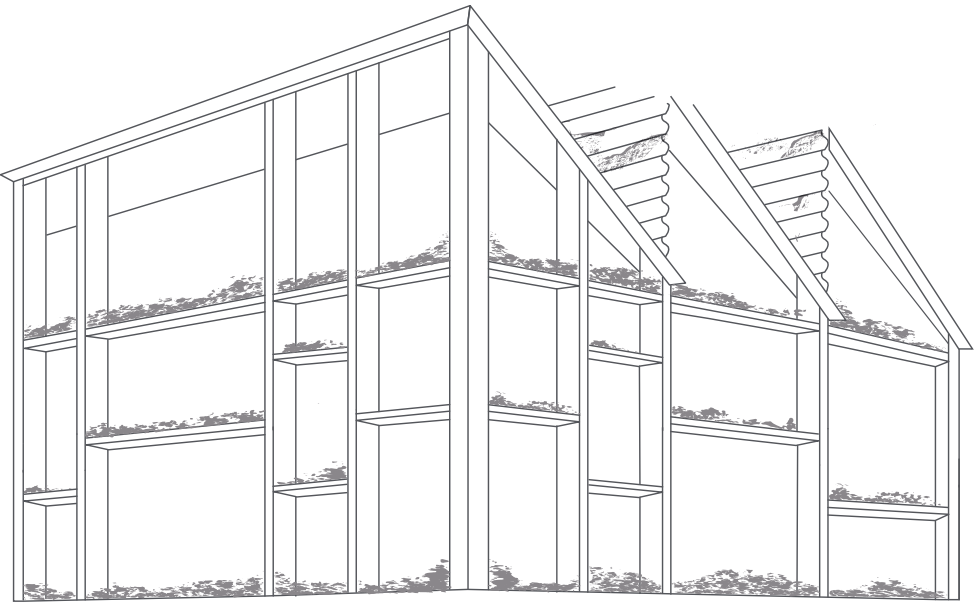
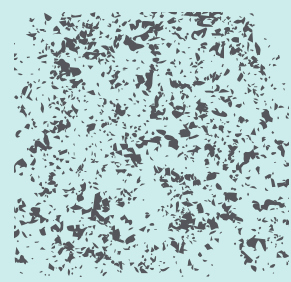
Friability

Various

Ease of fibre release

Various

Dust



Description

Fine debris of a degraded source material. Can be asbestos-contaminated if the source material contains asbestos.

Also see

- [Cement product debris](#)
- [Dust and debris](#)
- [Insulation product dust and debris](#)

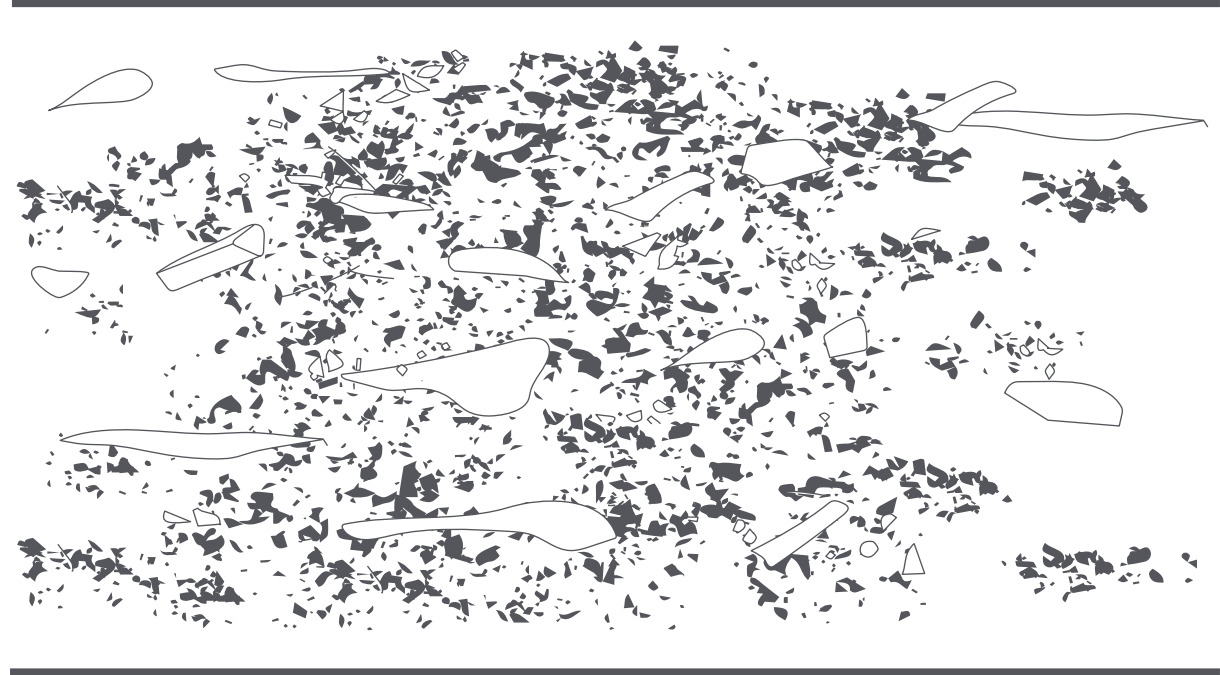
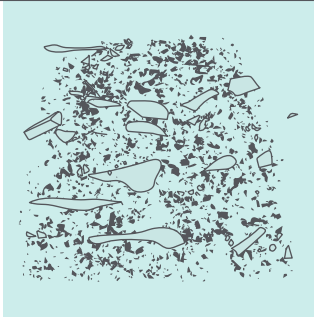
Friability

Non-friable	Friable	Non-asbestos
-------------	---------	--------------

Ease of fibre release

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	NA
Lowest									Highest	

Dust and debris



Description

A combination of small and large pieces of degraded source materials. These can contain asbestos if the source materials contain asbestos.

Also see

- [Dust](#)
- [Insulation product dust and debris](#)

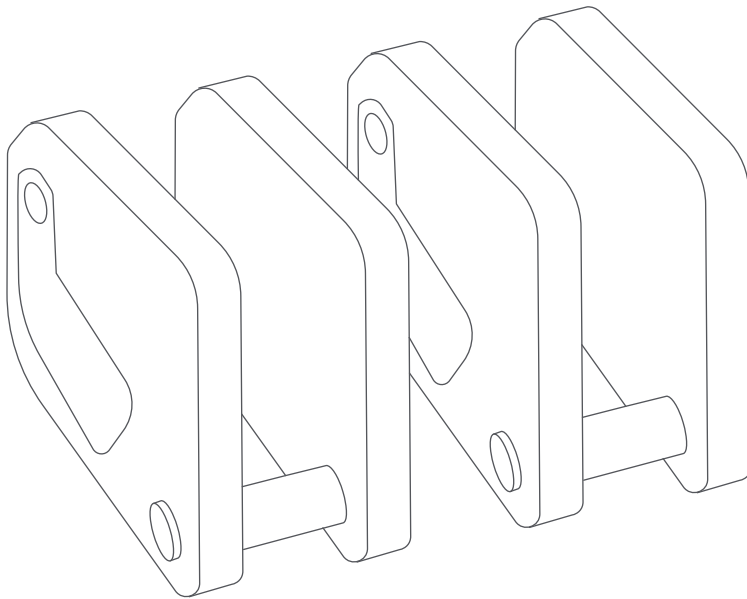
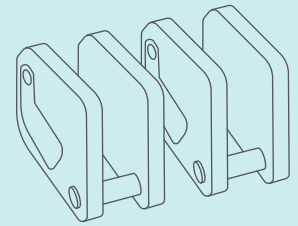
Friability

Non-friable	Friable	Non-asbestos
-------------	---------	--------------

Ease of fibre release

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	NA
Lowest										Highest

Electrical arc shields



Description

Moulded cement panel(s) installed between electrical terminals to prevent an arc from connecting them. Can be made with asbestos-containing cement.

Related terms / Alternative names

Cement

Also see

[Compressed electrical panels](#)

[Fibrous cement electrical components](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

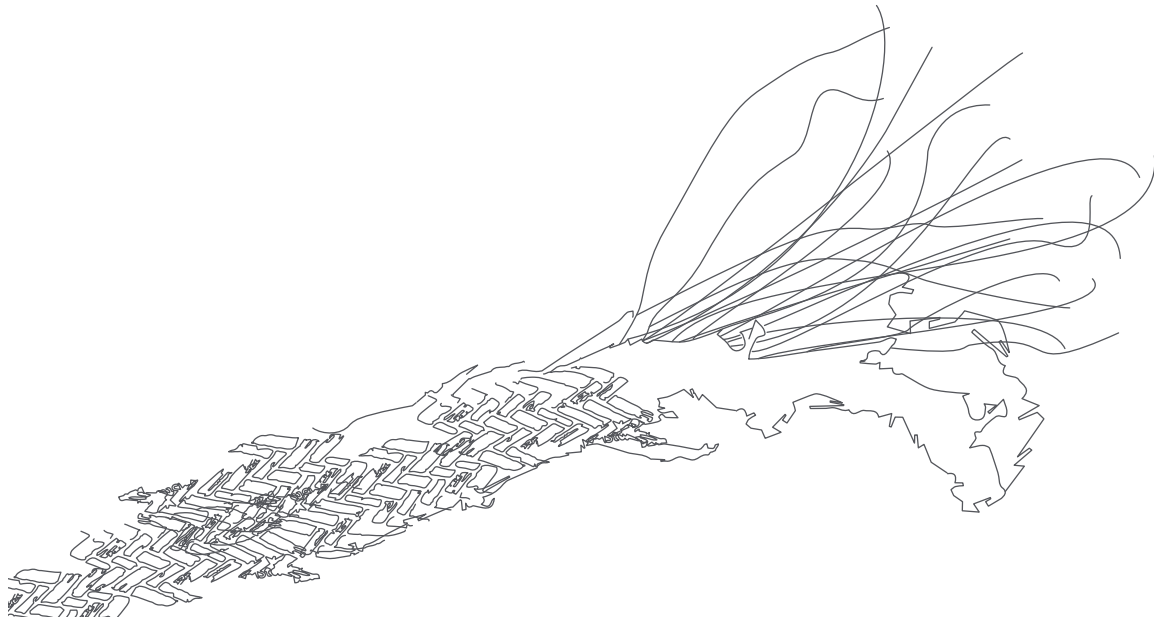
Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

Electrical cable shrouding



Description

A protective layer surrounding electrical cables. Can be made of woven asbestos fibre.

Related terms / Alternative names

Insulation

Also see

[Woven products](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

Ease of fibre release

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

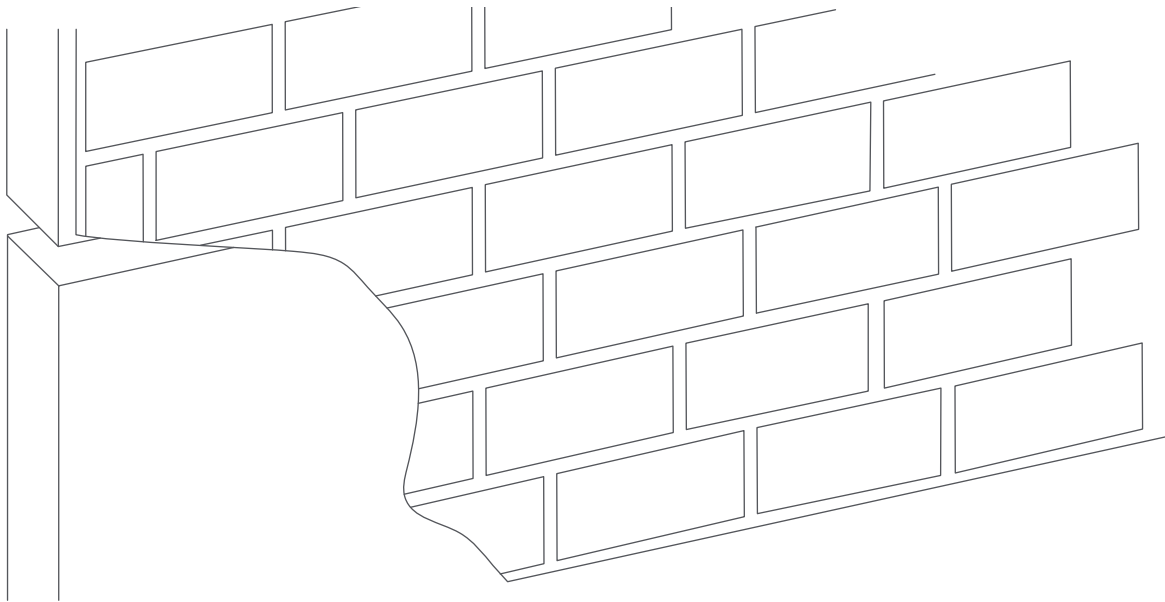
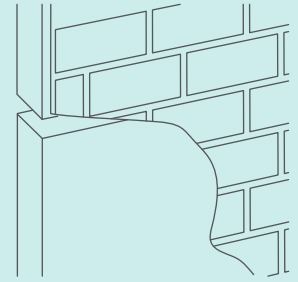
10

NA

Lowest

Highest

Faux-brick cladding



Description

Asbestos-containing cement sheet moulded to give the appearance of brick cladding. Commonly used as wall cladding on domestic buildings.

Related terms / Alternative names

Imitation brick cladding

Also see

[Faux-timber sheeting](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

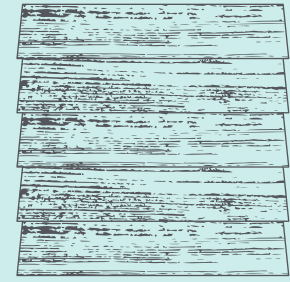
Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

Faux-timber sheeting



Description

Cement sheet moulded to give the appearance of timber. Could be made of asbestos-containing cement sheet. Asbestos-containing faux-timber-appearance cement sheet was often used as weatherboard cladding in commercial and domestic settings.

Related terms / Alternative names

Cement

Chamferboard

Hardiplank

Also see

[Faux-brick cladding](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

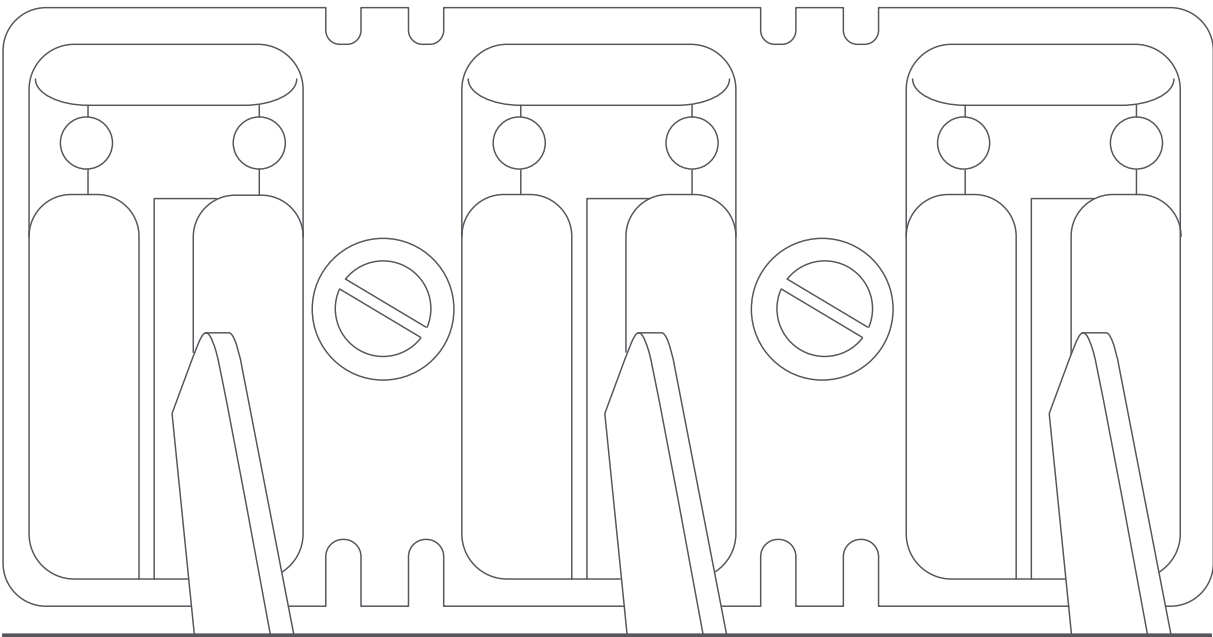
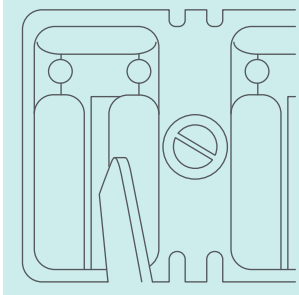
Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

Fibrous cement electrical components



Description

Miscellaneous electrical components made from asbestos-containing moulded cement.

Also see

[Electrical arc shields](#)

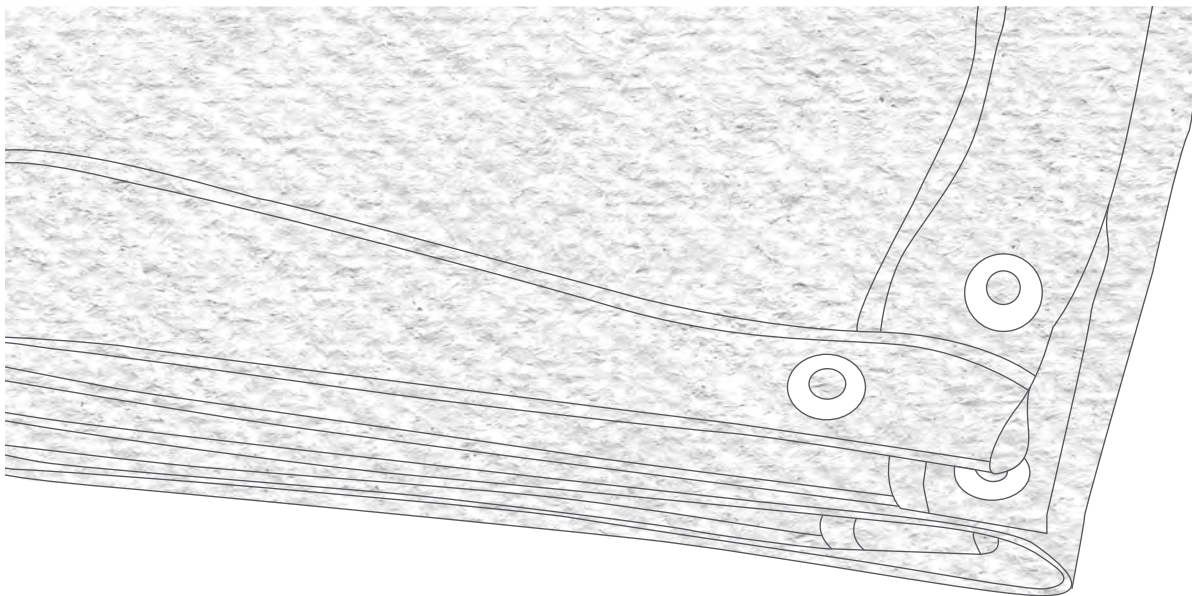
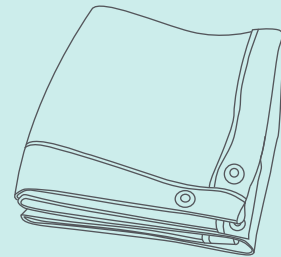
Friability

Non-friable	Friable	Non-asbestos
-------------	---------	--------------

Ease of fibre release

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	NA
Lowest										Highest

Fire blanket



Description

A woven sheet of flexible, fireproof material used to smother a fire. The fire-resistant properties of asbestos cloth made it ideal for use as fire blankets.

Related terms / Alternative names

Insulation

Textiles

Also see

[Fire curtains](#)

[Firefighting clothing](#)

[Fireproof pillows](#)

[Fire rated material](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

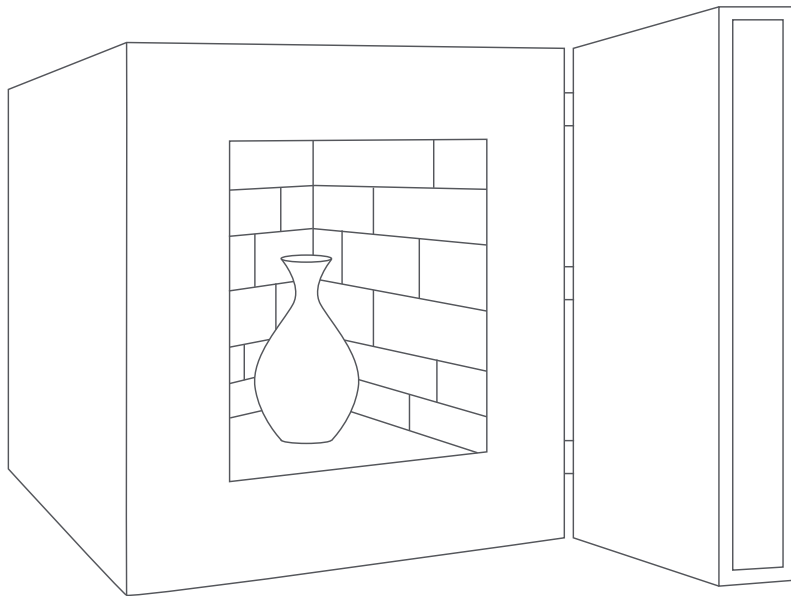
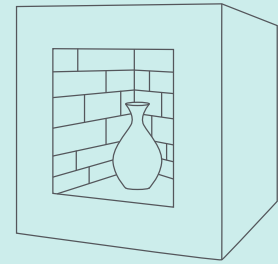
Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

Fire brick



Description

A brick capable of withstanding intense heat, used especially to line furnaces, fireplaces and heat-producing plant and equipment. Can be found in places like kilns and boilers. Fire bricks are generally non-asbestos-containing ceramic brick, but can be manufactured with asbestos fibres.

Related terms / Alternative names

Brick

Insulation

Refractory

Friability

Non-friable

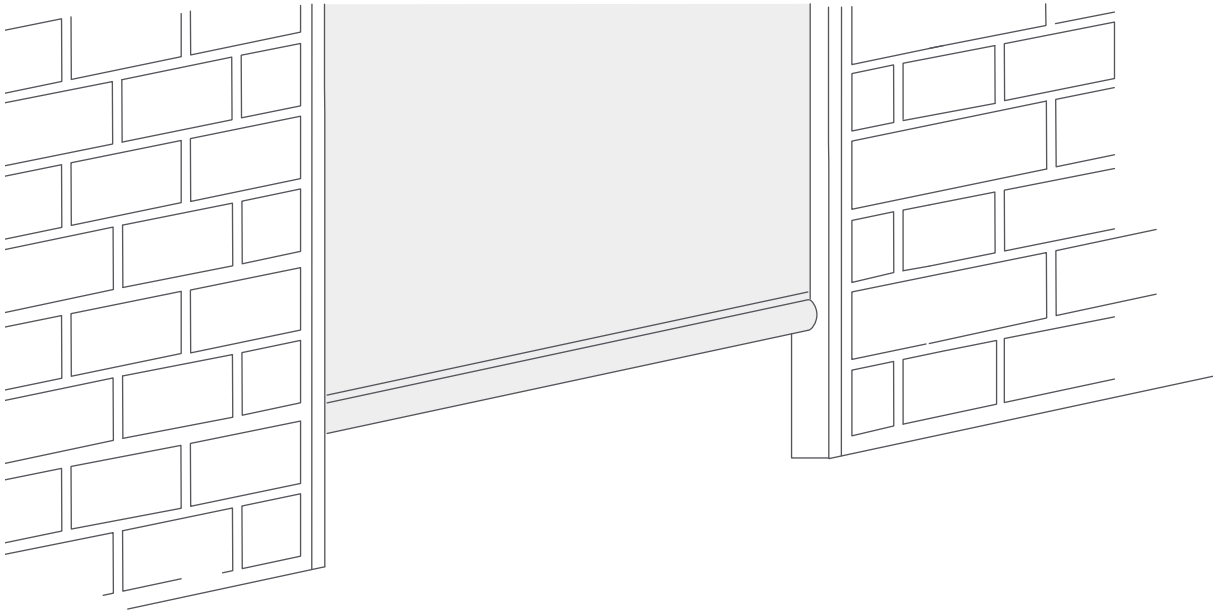
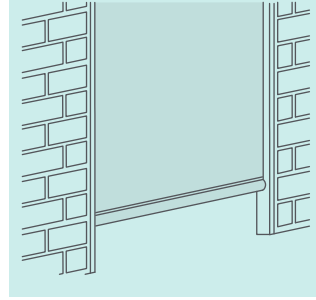
Friable

Non-asbestos

Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA
Lowest Highest

Fire curtains



Description

A specially constructed curtain used to prevent fire from spreading. Can be made of woven asbestos cloth.

Related terms / Alternative names

Textiles

Also see

[Fire blanket](#)

[Firefighting clothing](#)

[Fire rated material](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

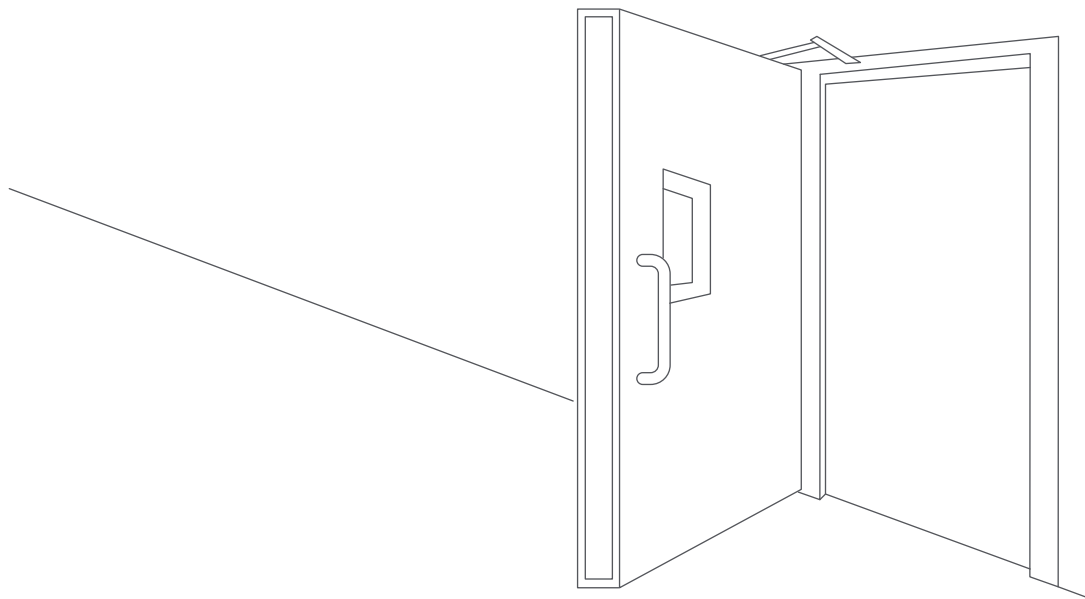
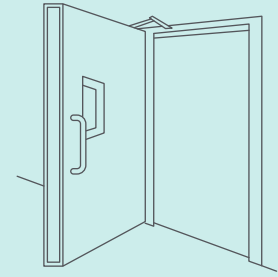
Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

Fire-door core



Description

A fire door is a door with a high fire-resistance rating used as part of a passive fire-protection system to reduce the spread of fire and smoke between separate compartments of a structure. An asbestos-containing fire door has a core that can consist of a material such as asbestos-insulating or low-density board, cement sheet or vermiculite. A fire-door core may be exposed at the top or bottom and around mechanisms.

Related terms / Alternative names

Insulation

Also see

[Fire rated material](#)

[Flat sheeting](#)

[Internal insulation \(suspected\)](#)

[Low-density asbestos fibre board](#)

[Vermiculite](#)

Friability

Non-friable

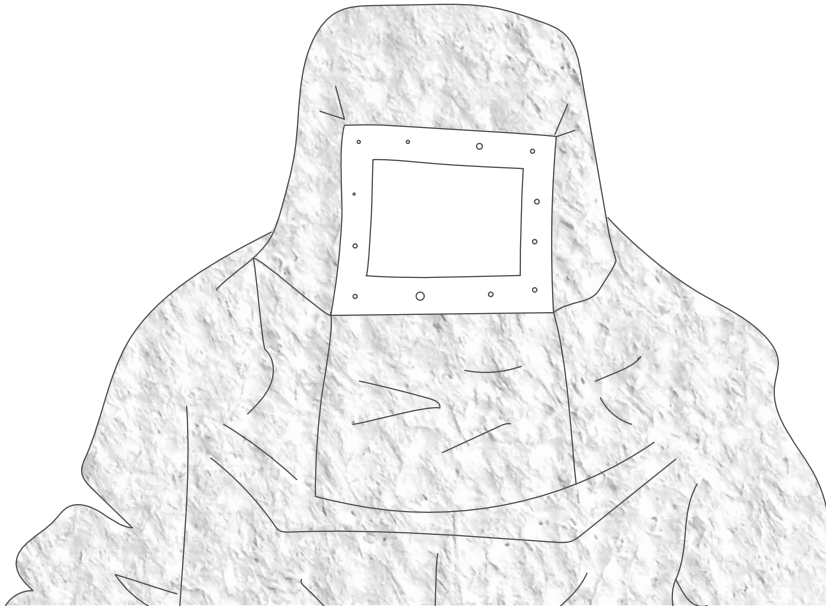
Friable

Non-asbestos

Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA
Lowest Highest

Firefighting clothing



Description

Woven asbestos personal protective clothing used for firefighting.

Related terms / Alternative names

Insulation

Textiles

Also see

[Fire rated material](#)

[Gloves](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

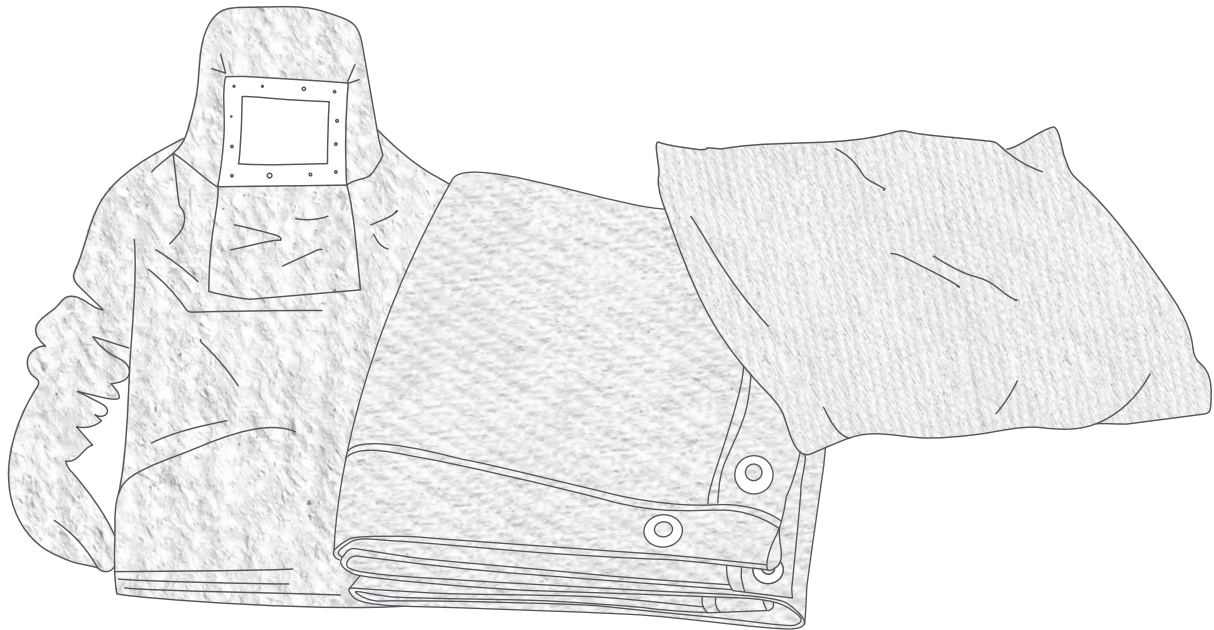
Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

Fire rated material



Description

Miscellaneous fire-resistant or fire-retardant material not otherwise described.

Also see

[Fire blanket](#)

[Fire curtains](#)

[Firefighting clothing](#)

[Fireproof pillows](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

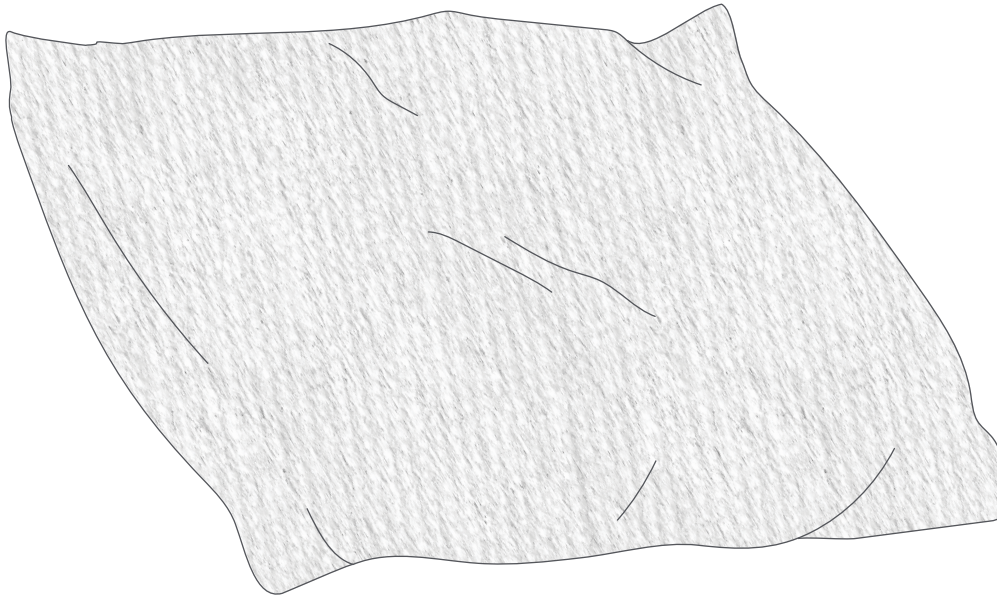
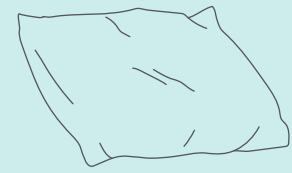
Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

Fireproof pillows



Description

Typically not asbestos-containing, fire pillows are a passive fire-protection measure made of loose or fibrous fire-resistant material inside a fire-resistant bag or pillow. Often used to seal and protect service penetration holes in walls, floors and ceilings to help prevent fire spread.

Related terms / Alternative names

Insulation

Pillow insulation

Also see

[Fire rated material](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

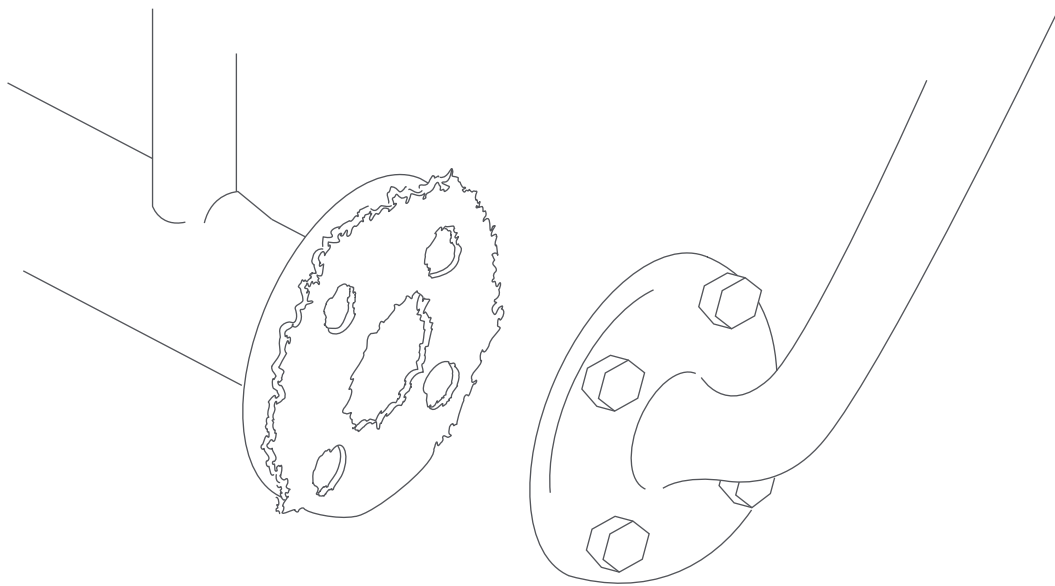
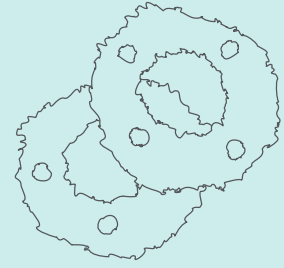
Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

Flange gaskets



Description

Flange gaskets are used to create a static seal between two pipework or ductwork flange faces. Can be made of various asbestos materials ranging in friability.

Also see

[Gaskets](#)

[Rubber gasket](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

Ease of fibre release

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

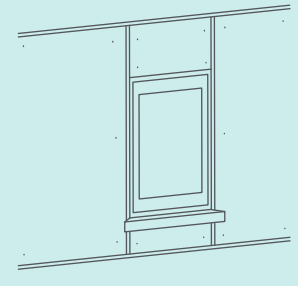
10

NA

Lowest

Highest

Flat sheeting



Description

Flat fibrous cement sheet typically 4mm in thickness. Asbestos-containing flat cement sheet was commonly used extensively in a number of applications, including cladding and linings.

Related terms / Alternative names

Cement	Fibre cement board
Hardiflex	Villaboard
Wunderlich	

Also see

[Laminated cement sheeting](#)

[Moulded cement sheeting](#)

[Pebble-rendered cement sheeting](#)

[Profiled roof sheeting](#)

Friability

Non-friable

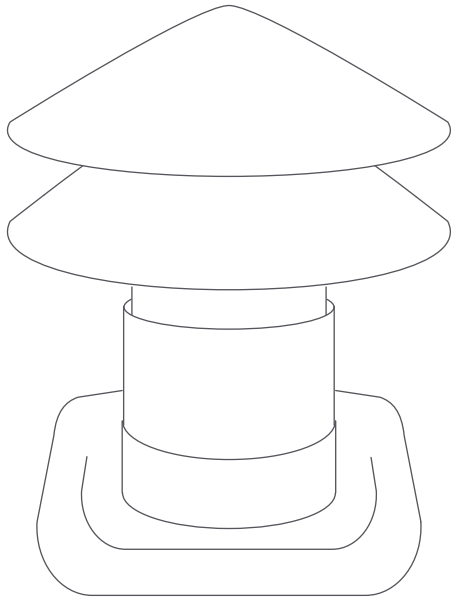
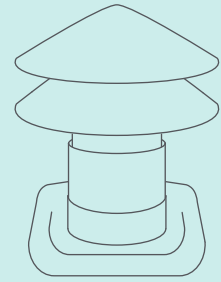
Friable

Non-asbestos

Ease of fibre release

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	NA
Lowest										Highest

Flue cap



Description

A flue cap is a rain covering for the top of a flue or chimney pipe and can be made from moulded asbestos-containing cement.

Related terms / Alternative names

Cement

Also see

[Cement flue](#)

[Moulded cement products](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

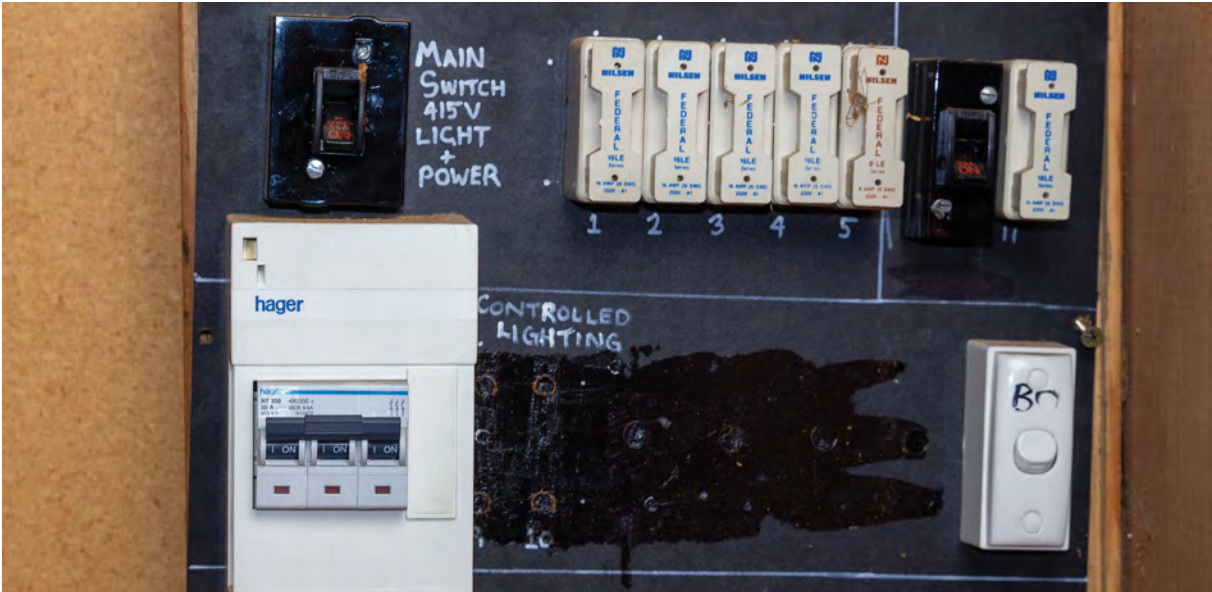
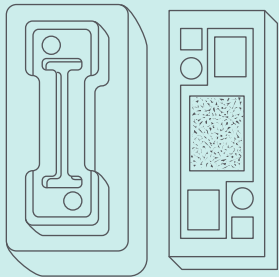
Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

Fuse holder



Description

A small electrical component, usually found mounted to electrical boards that contain a fuse. Modern versions are typically composed of plastic. However, historic ceramic models often contained a small ceramic fuse (see [HRC fuse](#)) and a small fuse blanket made of moderately friable woven asbestos fibre between the fuse and the surrounding cartridge.

Related terms / Alternative names

- Bitumen
- Circuit breaker
- Insulation

Also see

- [Electrical arc shields](#)
- [Fibrous cement electrical components](#)

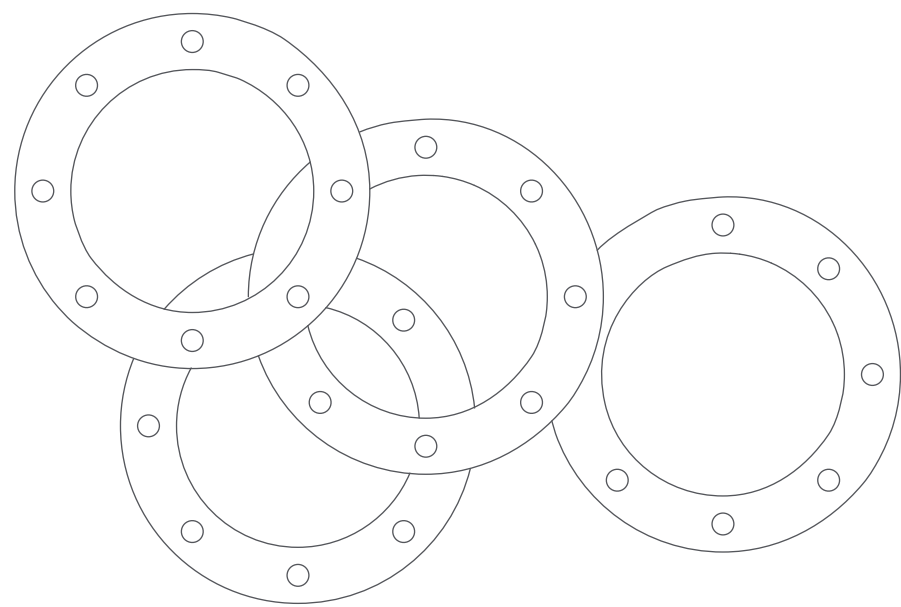
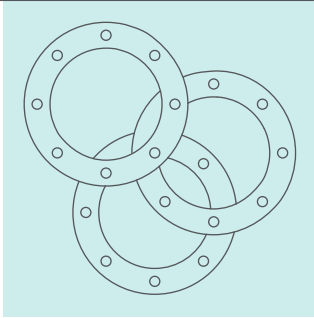
Friability

Non-friable	Friable	Non-asbestos
-------------	---------	--------------

Ease of fibre release

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	NA
Lowest										Highest

Gaskets



Description

Commonly found in plant and equipment, a shaped sheet or ring of material sealing the junction between two surfaces. Asbestos-containing gaskets can comprise various asbestos materials such as rope, mastic, compressed asbestos fibre, polymer or rubber-like material, and bituminous material. Therefore, ease of fibre release varies depending on the matrix material.

Also see

- [CAF gasket debris](#)
- [Flange gaskets](#)
- [Rubber gasket](#)

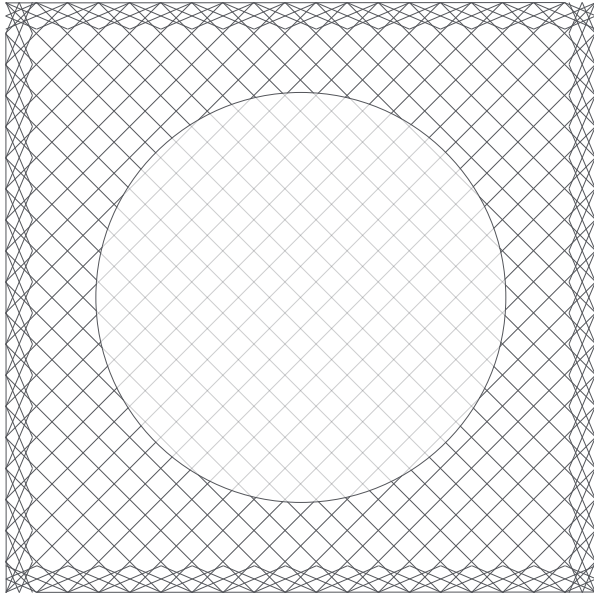
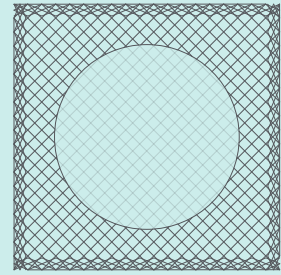
Friability

Non-friable	Friable	Non-asbestos
-------------	---------	--------------

Ease of fibre release

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	NA
Lowest							Highest			

Gauze mats



Description

A piece of laboratory apparatus consisting of a flat piece of wire gauze placed on a tripod over a Bunsen burner to give a beaker or flask additional support and to distribute heat more evenly. The composite ceramic centres of a gauze mat may contain fibrous asbestos.

Related terms / Alternative names

Bunsen burner gauze mats

Also see

[Fire rated material](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

Ease of fibre release

1

2

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4

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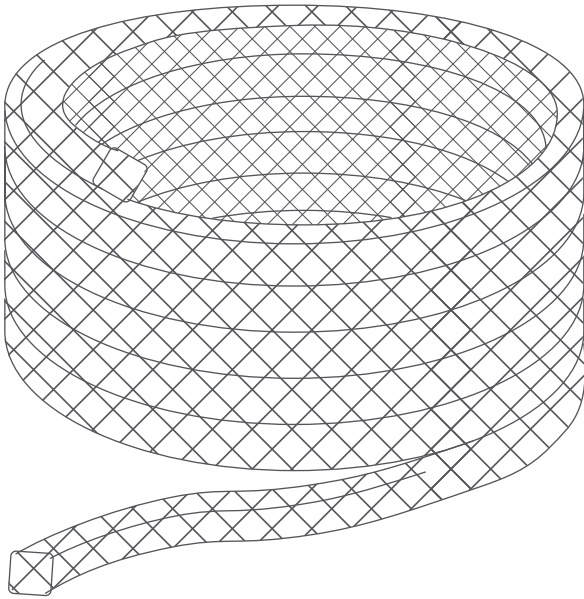
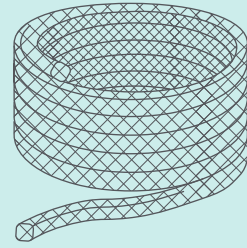
10

NA

Lowest

Highest

Gland packing



Description

Commonly found in industrial taps, a gland is a type of mechanical component used to seal a reciprocating or rotating shaft. A square section of woven rope can be used as the packing material, which may comprise woven asbestos fibre.

Related terms / Alternative names

Gland seals

Also see

[Rope or braided gasket](#)

[Woven products](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

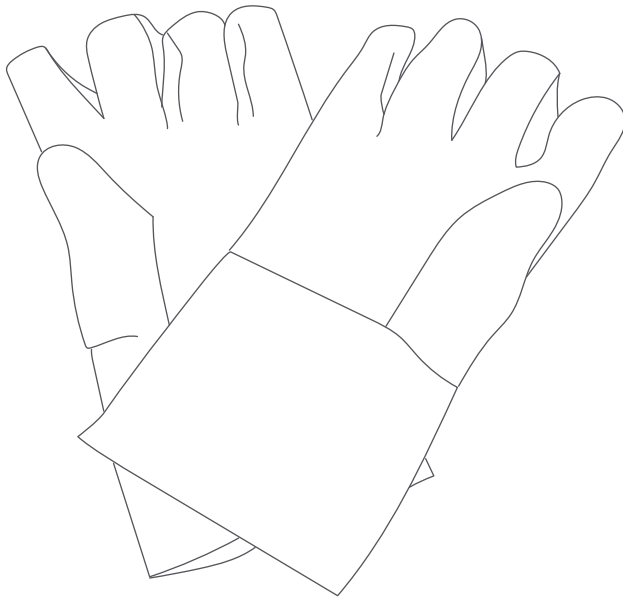
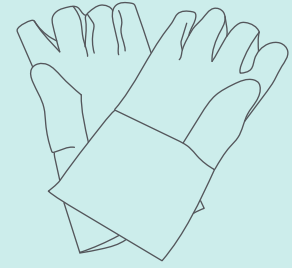
Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

Gloves



Description

Gloves made of woven asbestos cloth for use in high-heat applications.

Related terms / Alternative names

Textiles

Also see

[Firefighting clothing](#)

[Fire rated material](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

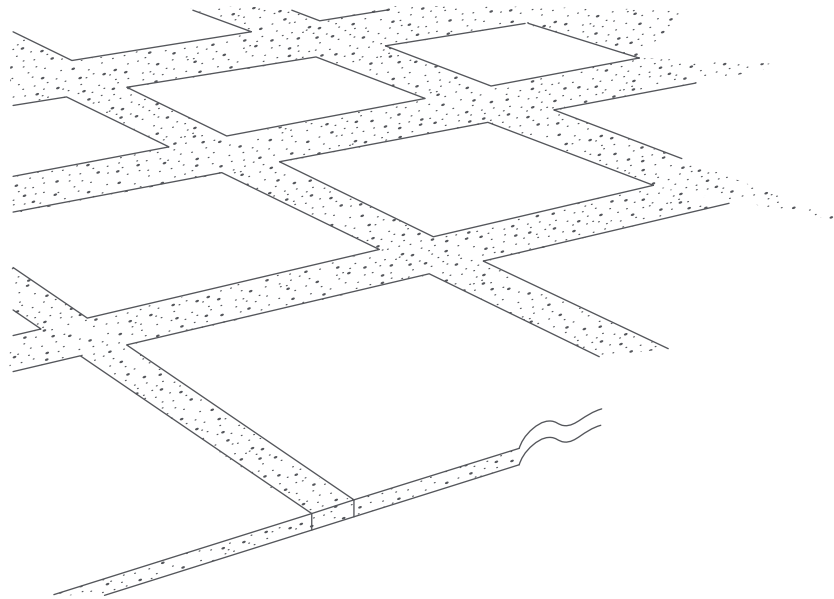
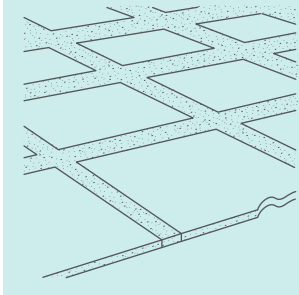
Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

Grout



Description

A mortar or paste used for filling crevices, especially the gaps between wall or floor tiles. Can contain asbestos, but rarely does.

Also see

[Mortar](#)

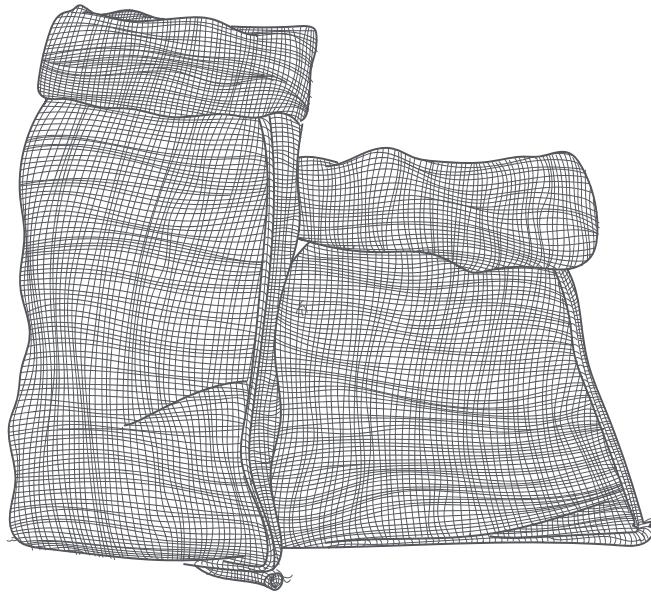
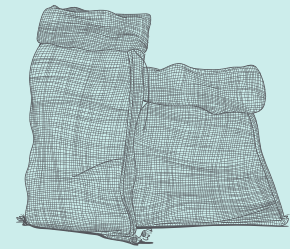
Friability

Non-friable	Friable	Non-asbestos
-------------	---------	--------------

Ease of fibre release

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	NA
Lowest										Highest

Hessian



Description

A strong, coarsely woven fabric made from hemp or jute, used for sacks, upholstery, insulation and a variety of other historical uses. This item is typically non-asbestos. However, hessian sacks were used to pack and transport raw asbestos fibre from mines, and the repurposed contaminated hessian can be found in many applications today (including carpet underlay).

Related terms / Alternative names

Textiles

Also see

[Hessian-backed vinyl sheet](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

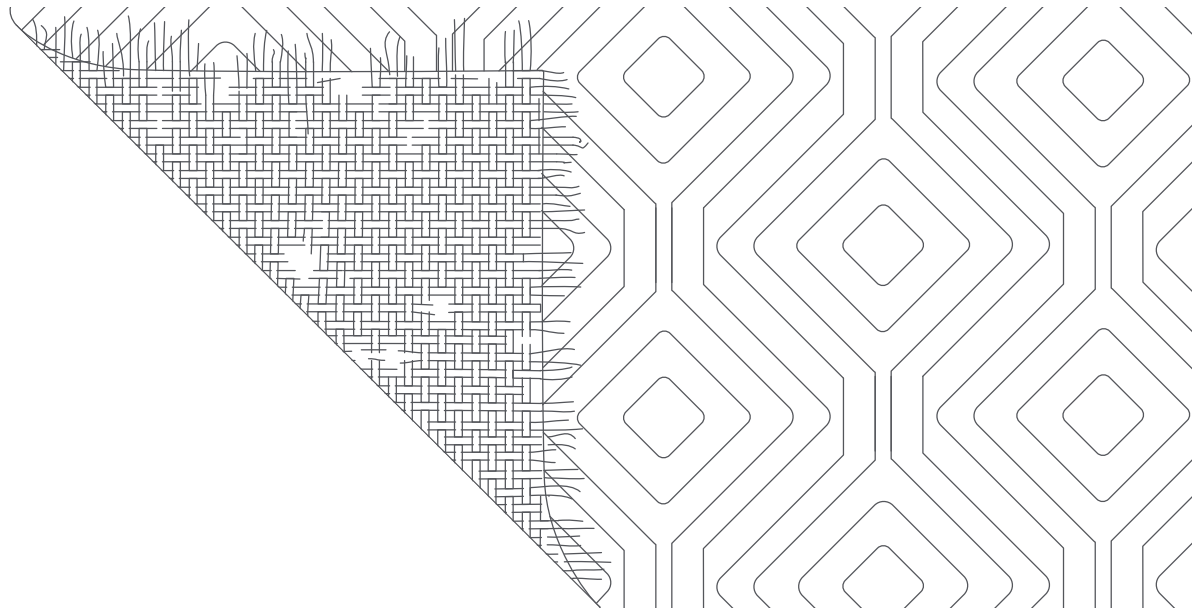
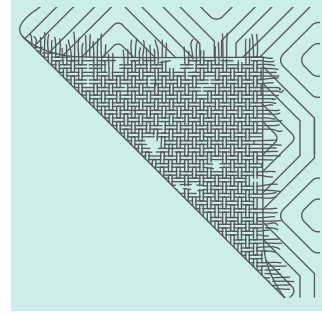
Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

Hessian-backed vinyl sheet



Description

Hessian-backed vinyl sheet was commonly applied as a type of historical flooring in large, continuous flexible sheets with a plant-fibre-based woven hessian backing adhered to the underside. Colours and patterns vary considerably. Asbestos can be found in the hessian underlay, the vinyl sheet itself or the glue used to adhere it to a surface.

Related terms / Alternative names

Vinyl

Also see

[Hessian](#)

[Millboard or paper-backed vinyl sheet](#)

[Vinyl sheet](#)

[Vinyl sheet and adhesive](#)

[Vinyl tiles](#)

[Vinyl tiles and adhesive](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA
Lowest Highest

Horsehair



Description

An organic fibre, horsehair is from the mane or tail of a horse, typically used in furniture, padding or as a structural component in historical plaster construction. Typically not an asbestos material, but can be found in similar applications to asbestos-containing materials.

Related terms / Alternative names

Plaster

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

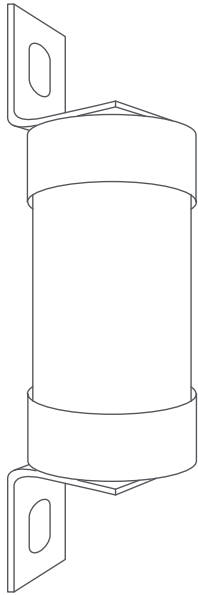
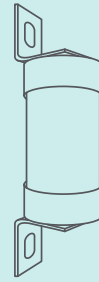
Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

HRC fuse



Description

Small electrical components typically found within a fuse holder attached to an electrical board. Modern fuse holders are commonly made of plastic. However, for a time (approx. until the 1980s), they were made of ceramic. These ceramic fuse holders often contained asbestos millboard (see [Fuse holder](#)). High rupturing capacity (HRC) fuses are internal components to these fuse holders. Also made of ceramic, asbestos millboard can be found within them. Accessing the internal millboard is not possible without breaking the ceramic casing. Dates of manufacture can usually be found on the outside.

Related terms / Alternative names

Fuse

Fuse cartridge

Also see

[Fuse holder](#)

[Millboard](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

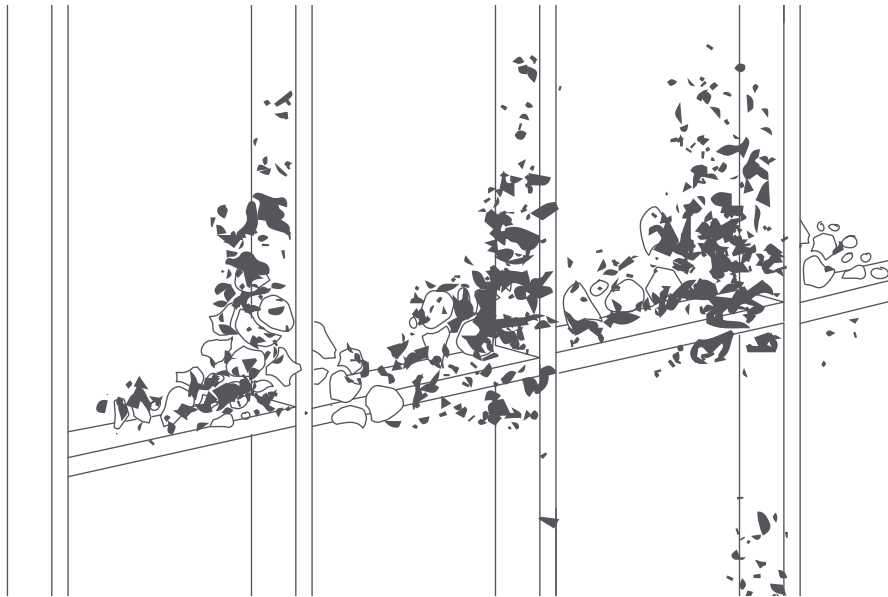
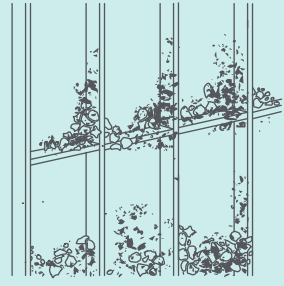
Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

Insulation product dust and debris



Description

The dust and debris that forms when various insulating materials degrade.

Related terms / Alternative names

Insulation

Also see

[Cement product debris](#)

[Dust](#)

[Dust and debris](#)

[Loose-fill insulation](#)

[Sprayed insulation](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

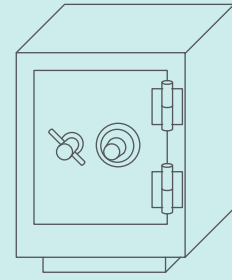
Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

Internal insulation (suspected)



Description

Asbestos insulation was often used as a form of fireproofing within solid metal casing. Because of the solid casing, sampling is not possible without destructive sampling measures which can destroy the integrity of the item. Therefore, the asbestos insulation is assumed to be present. Examples of this are fireproof safes, and solid metal fire doors.

Related terms / Alternative names

Insulation

Friability

Non-friable

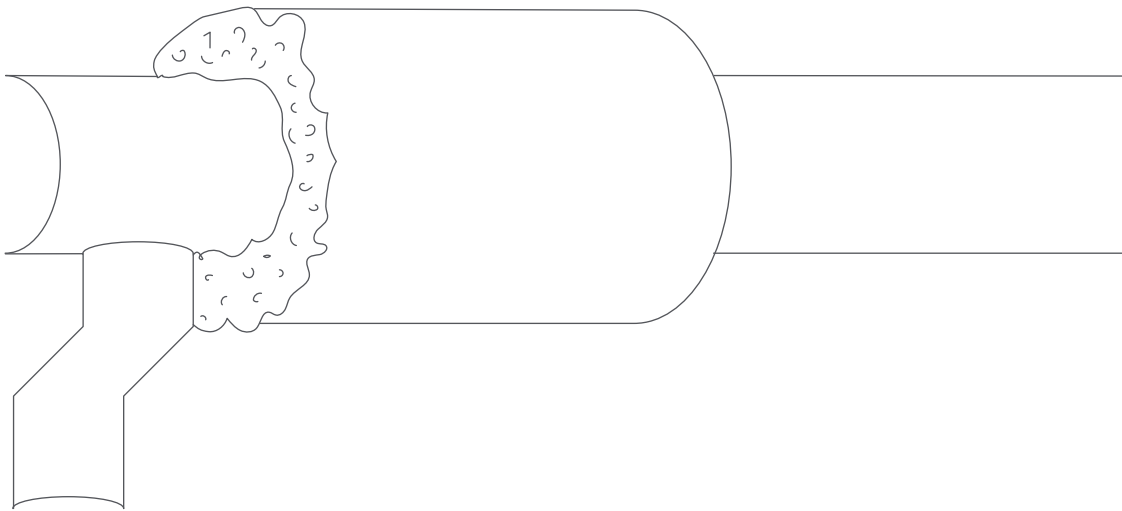
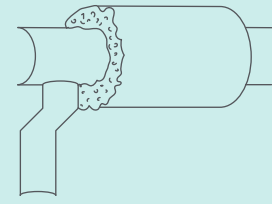
Friable

Non-asbestos

Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA
Lowest Highest

Lagging



Description

Lagging is a fibrous composite material usually made of magnesium carbonate or calcium silicate and combined with loose asbestos fibre to form a soft plaster-like material. Lagging was most commonly used to insulate hot water and steam pipework, but can also be found on industrial heat-producing plants such as boilers and furnaces. The fragile consistency of lagging and its extended exposure to heat leads to it often being highly degraded and damaged. Asbestos pipe lagging is commonly found wrapped in calico, but can also be found beneath a metal casing.

Related terms / Alternative names

Insulation

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

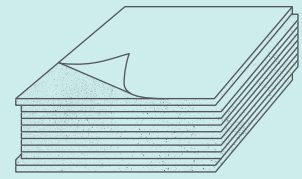
Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

Laminated cement sheeting



Description

Very strong compressed cement sheeting, with a laminated surface layer, usually decorated with a variety of patterns and colours, often with brightly coloured flowers on a white background. Often found in wet areas such as bathrooms, kitchens and, especially, as shower walls.

Related terms / Alternative names

Tilux

Also see

[Compressed flat sheeting](#)

[Flat sheeting](#)

Friability

Non-friable

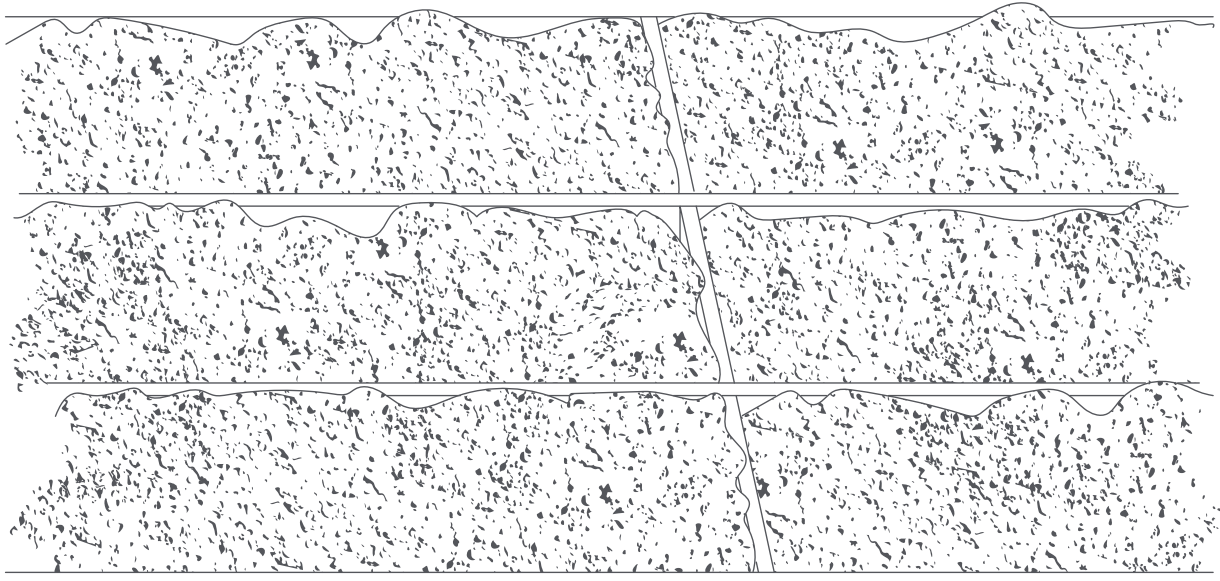
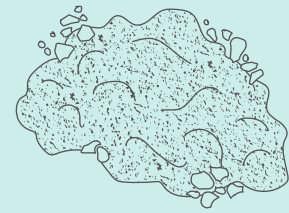
Friable

Non-asbestos

Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA
Lowest Highest

Loose-fill insulation



Description

Loose fill is another form of insulation, commonly found in walls and ceilings. This fluffy insulation is usually light brown to blue-grey to white in colour, has a considerable risk of transfer within a building or structure, and consists of almost 100% asbestos fibre. Due to its extremely friable nature and high asbestos fibre content, risk of contamination to surrounding areas is common.

Related terms / Alternative names

Blow In

Insulation

Mr Fluffy

Also see

[Insulation product dust and debris](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

Ease of fibre release

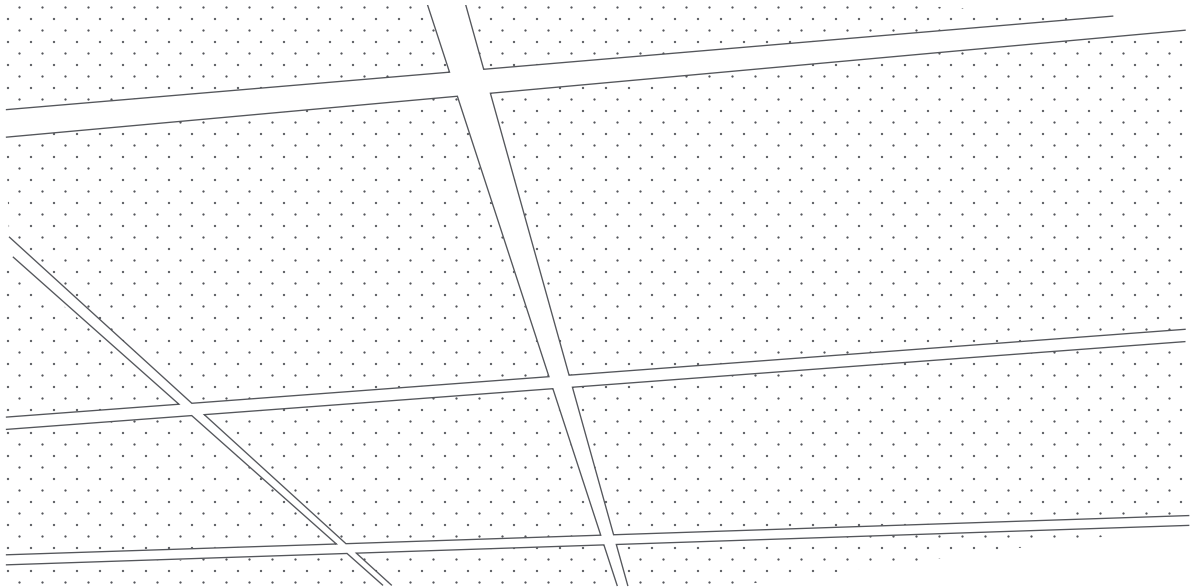
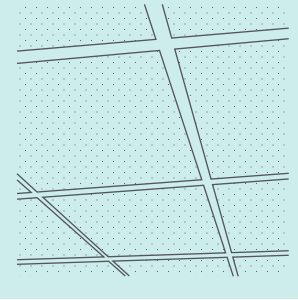
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

Low-density asbestos fibre board

(asbestos-insulating board (AIB))



Description

Lightly compressed board containing asbestos fibres in a calcium silicate plaster. Manufactured in flat or perforated sheets. Typically used for internal wall and ceiling panels and as acoustic or thermal insulation.

Related terms / Alternative names

AIB
Asbestolux
Duralux
Insulation
Soundproofing

Also see

[Millboard](#)

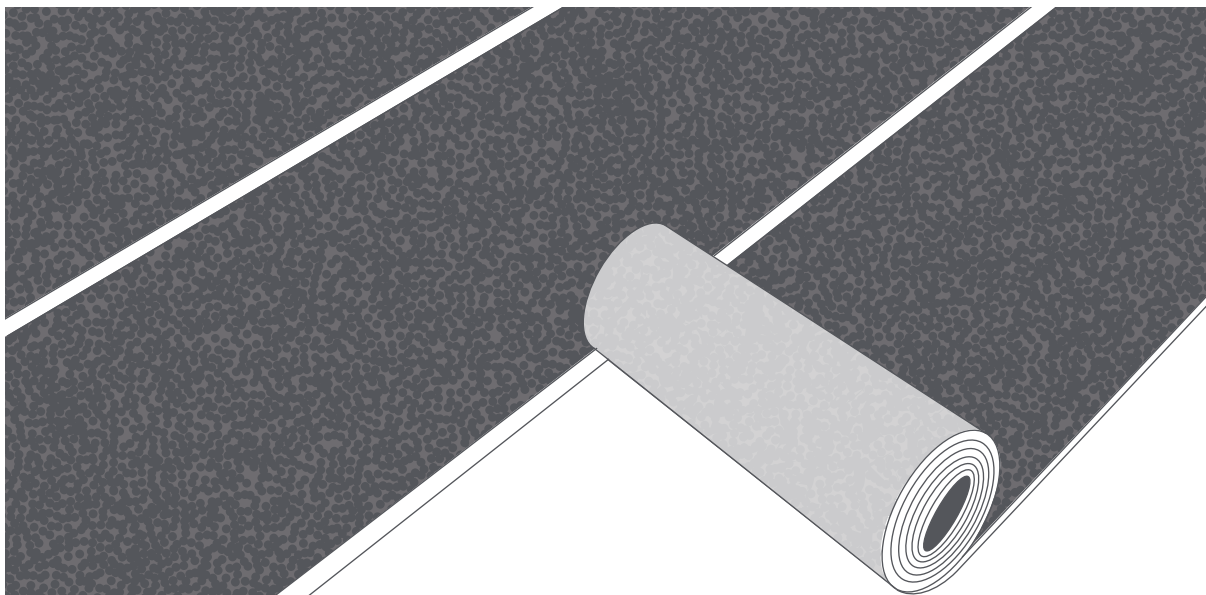
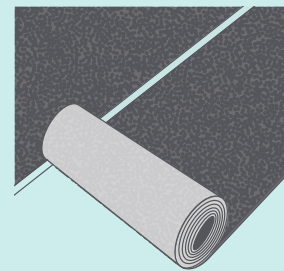
Friability

Non-friable **Friable** Non-asbestos

Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 **7** 8 9 10 NA
Lowest Highest

Malthoid



Description

A layered sealing material impregnated with bitumen and, sometimes, asbestos fibres. Used in roofing and as a damp-proof course in brickwork, etc.

Related terms / Alternative names

Bitumen

Waterproofing

Also see

[Bituminous membrane](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

Ease of fibre release

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

NA

Lowest

Highest

Mastic



Description

Mastic is a sealing adhesive that can contain asbestos fibres. Commonly found in control joints of floors and walls or in other industrial applications such as a sealant for air-handling units and associated ductwork.

Also see

[Caulking](#)

[Putty](#)

Friability

Non-friable

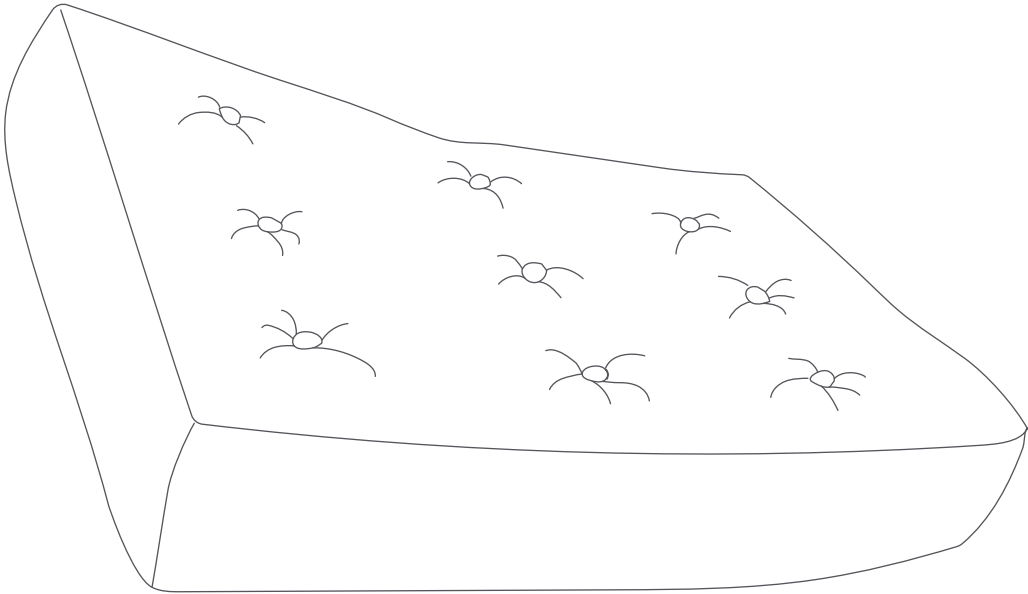
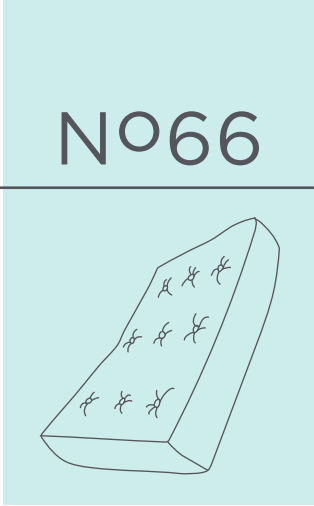
Friable

Non-asbestos

Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA
Lowest Highest

Mattresses



Description

Typically a large, rectangular pad with a fabric case and material-filled core. Asbestos mattresses were used for covering hot equipment in power stations and for other fire-resistant and heat-resistant purposes. Asbestos is usually used in the fabric material.

Also see

[Cloth](#)

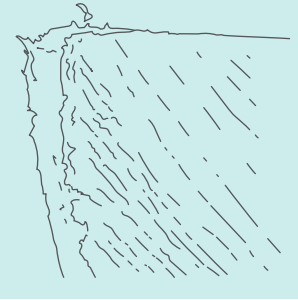
Friability

Non-friable	Friable	Non-asbestos
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Ease of fibre release

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	NA
Lowest										Highest

Millboard



Description

Millboard is a loosely compressed, high asbestos content, paper-like sheet that is used in many industrial insulation, fire- and electrical-resistant applications. It is commonly found lining timber frames on which electrical boards are mounted or lining the underside of vinyl sheet.

Also see

[Compressed electrical panels](#)

[Low-density asbestos fibre board](#)

[Millboard or paper-backed vinyl sheet](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

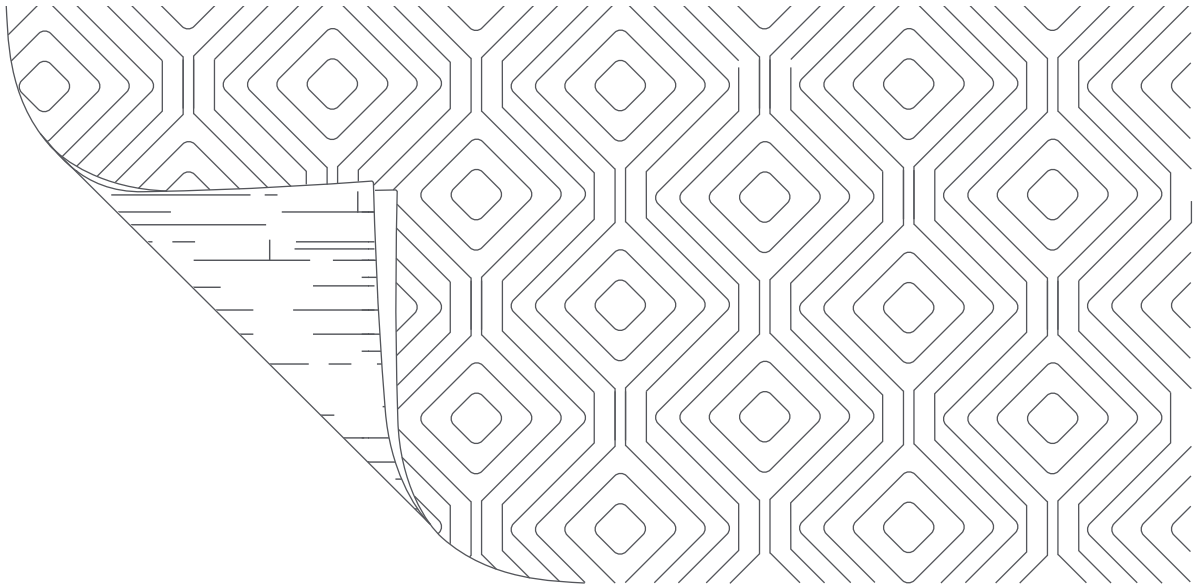
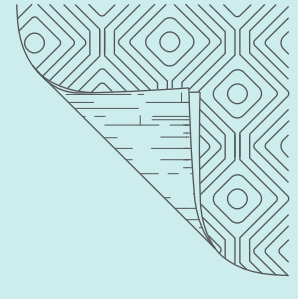
Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

Millboard or paper-backed vinyl sheet



Description

Vinyl sheeting with a felt-like backing. This may be referred to as millboard, paper, felt, or asbestos-backed vinyl sheet. The vinyl sheeting itself does not contain asbestos, but the strongly attached backing contains a high asbestos content — moderately friable paper-like material. Usually applied in sheet form, millboard or paper-backed sheet vinyl flooring often has complex and colourful patterning such as a 'terrazzo'-style or mosaic-tile-like appearance. All vinyl backing should be checked to confirm the presence of this friable material. It is common for this material to be found beneath newer, overlaid floor coverings.

Related terms / Alternative names

Linoleum/lino

Vinyl

Also see

[Hessian-backed vinyl sheet](#)

[Vinyl sheet and adhesive](#)

[Vinyl tiles](#)

[Vinyl tiles and adhesive](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

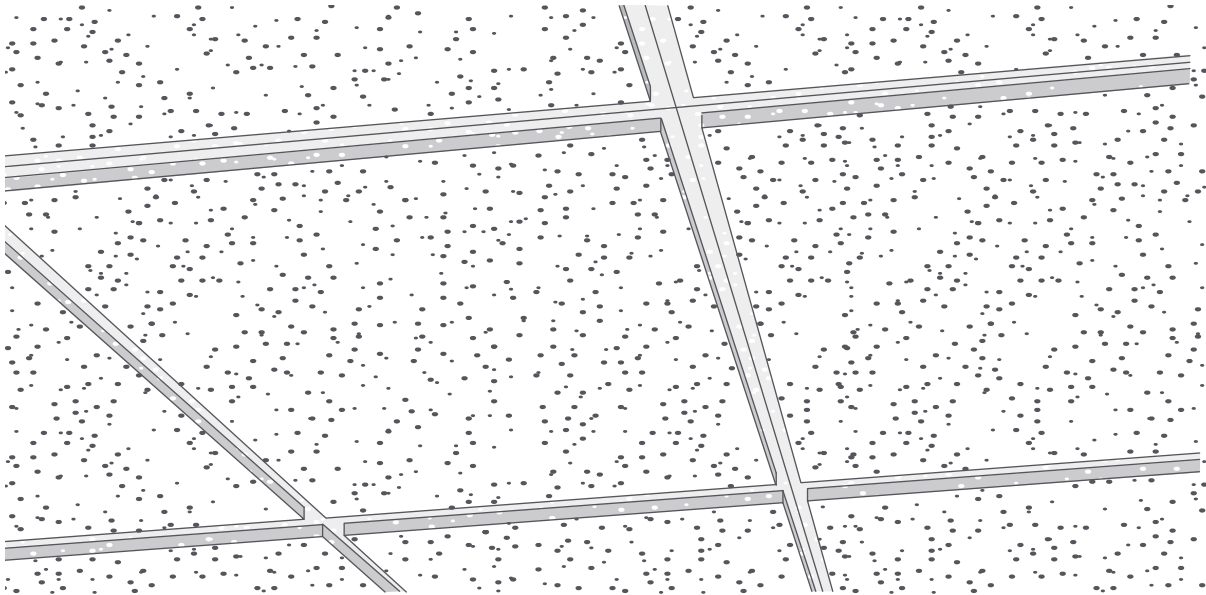
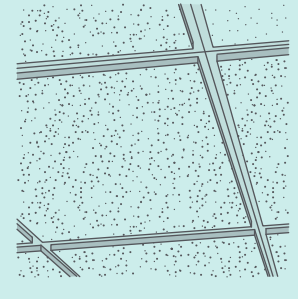
Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

Mineral fibre tiles



Description

Mineral fibre ceiling tiles are popular for areas with high noise or where insulation is required such as a ceiling covering or as suspended ceilings. Often constructed using Synthetic mineral fibre (SMF) and consisting of amorphous (non-crystalline) glass fibre, mineral wool, or ceramic fibre. Mineral fibre tiles are asbestos-free, but are often found in similar locations to asbestos ceiling tiles.

Related terms / Alternative names

Ceiling tiles

Also see

[SMF insulation](#)

Friability

Non-friable

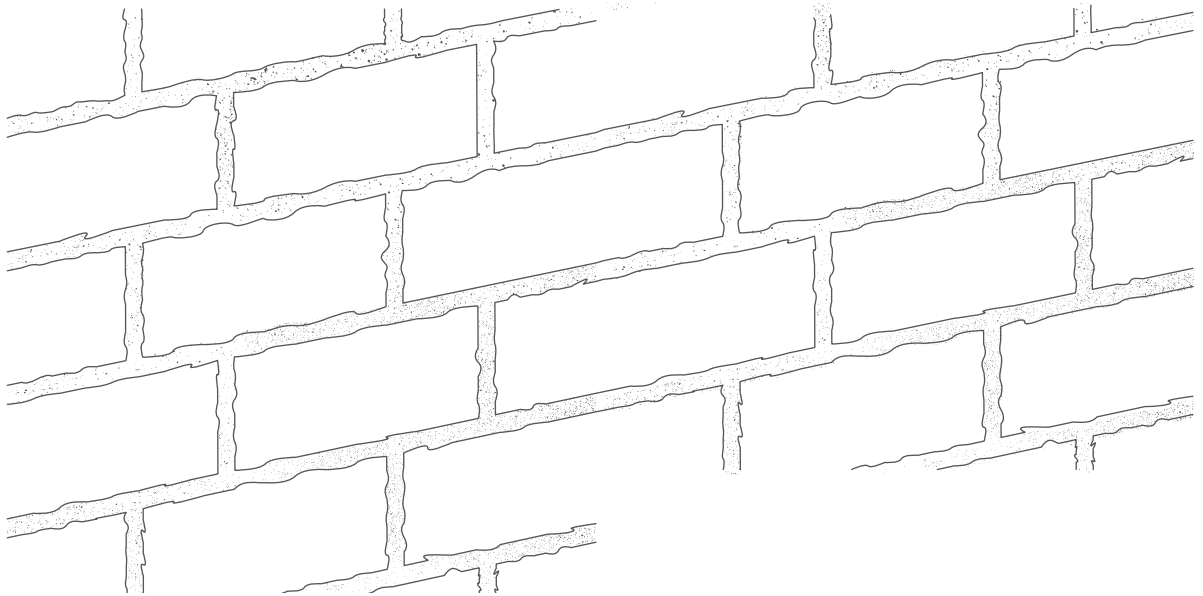
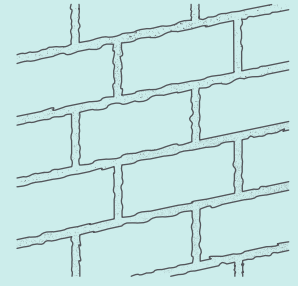
Friable

Non-asbestos

Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA
Lowest Highest

Mortar



Description

Mortar is used to bond building materials such as brick or stone. It is composed of a thick mixture of water, sand, cement and, sometimes, asbestos.

Also see

[Grout](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

Ease of fibre release

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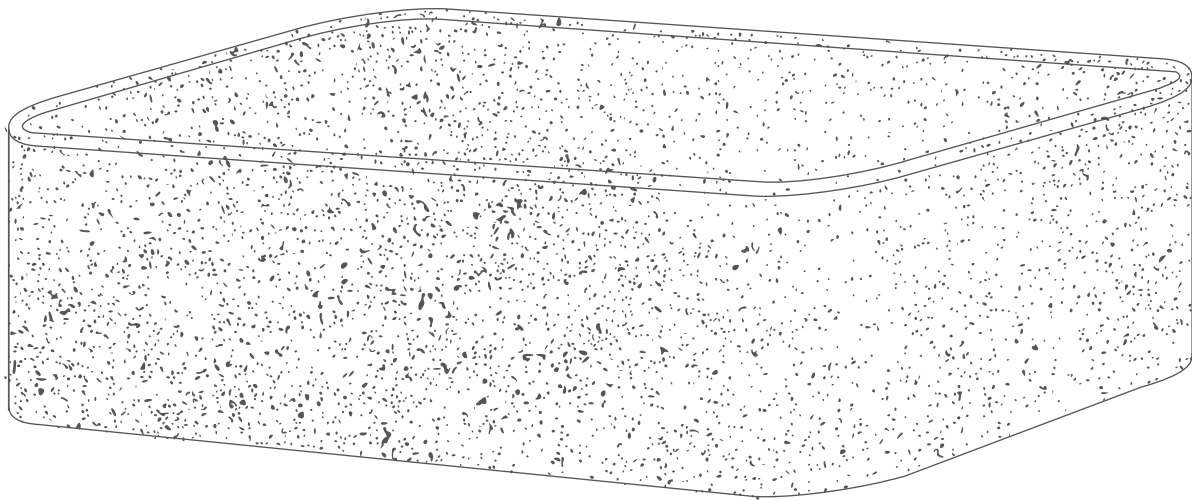
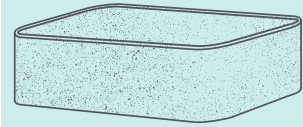
10

NA

Lowest

Highest

Moulded cement products



Description

Materials comprising cement moulded into various forms. Moulded cement products commonly contain asbestos and were used in a variety of applications, commonly external. Some examples of uses are roofing materials, garden pots and ponds, pipes, flue caps, etc.

Also see

[Moulded cement sheeting](#)

[Ridge capping](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

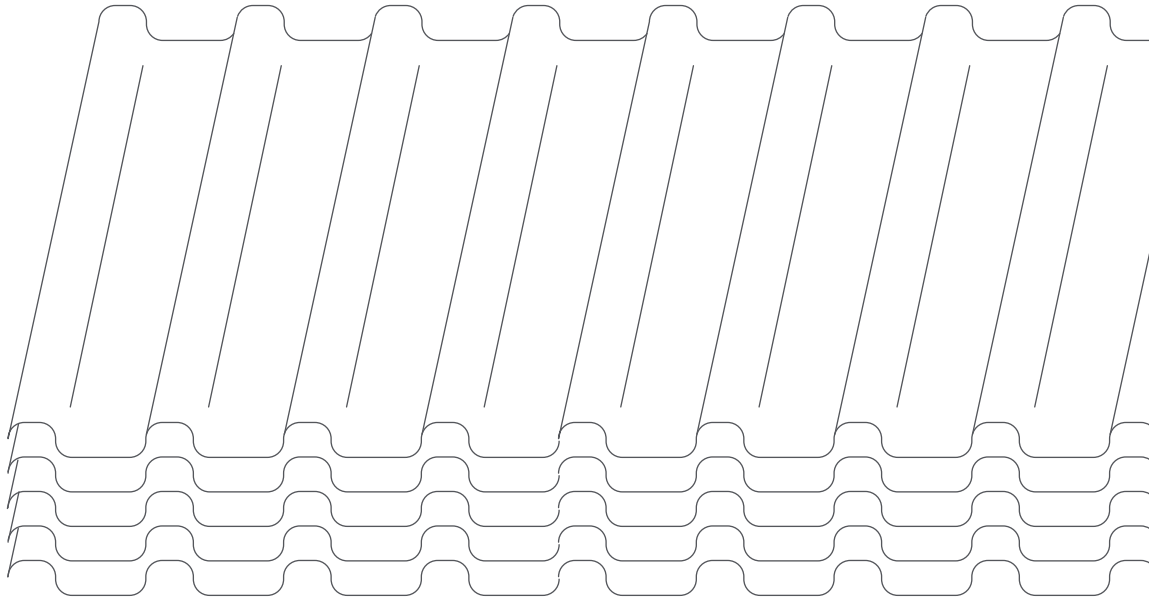
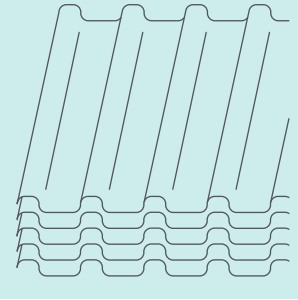
Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

Moulded cement sheeting



Description

Moulded cement sheeting which has historically been shaped into a variety of patterns and profiles commonly used as wall cladding and other external applications.

Related terms / Alternative names

Coverline

Highline

Log Cabin

Shadowline

Also see

[Corrugated roof sheeting](#)

[Profiled roof sheeting](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

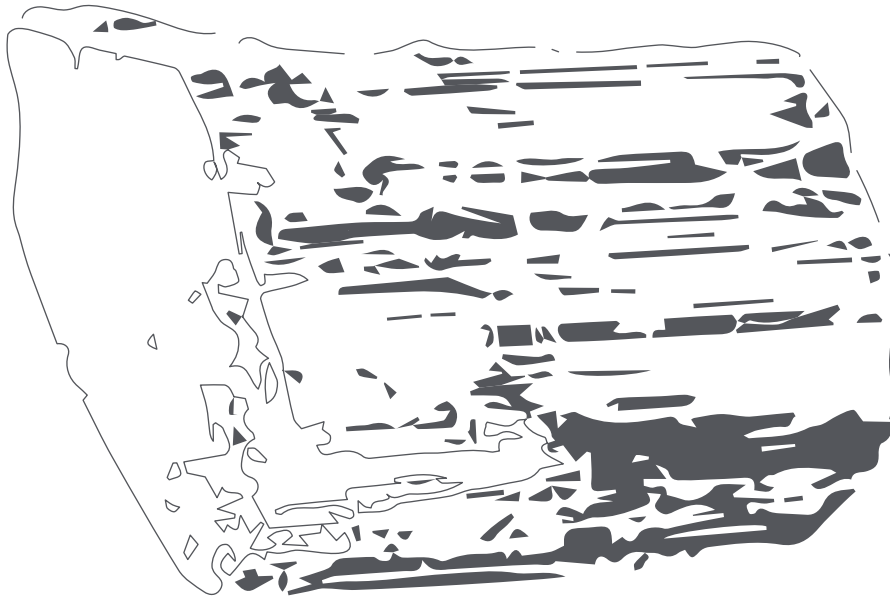
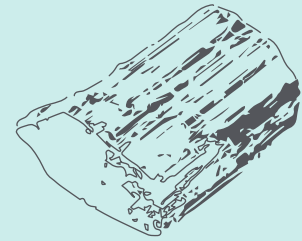
Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

Naturally occurring asbestos



Description

Naturally occurring asbestos includes the fibrous silicate minerals chrysotile, amosite, crocidolite, tremolite, anthophyllite and actinolite, and the host rock that contains these minerals.

Related terms / Alternative names

Contaminated soil

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

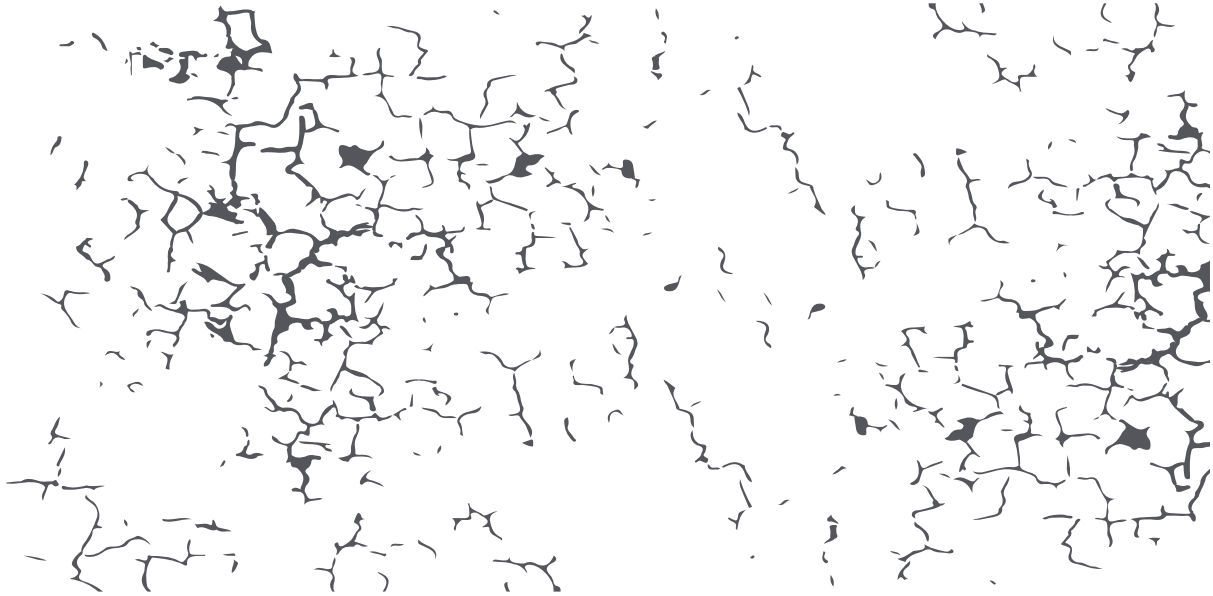
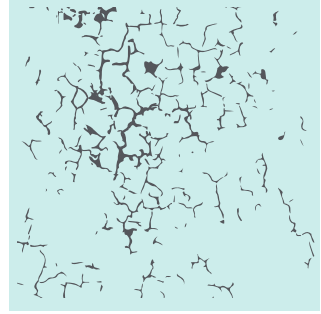
Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

Paint



Description

Used as a finish or to decorate a surface. Asbestos fibres were sometimes added to create texture.

Related terms / Alternative names

Artex

Also see

[Textured coating](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

Ease of fibre release

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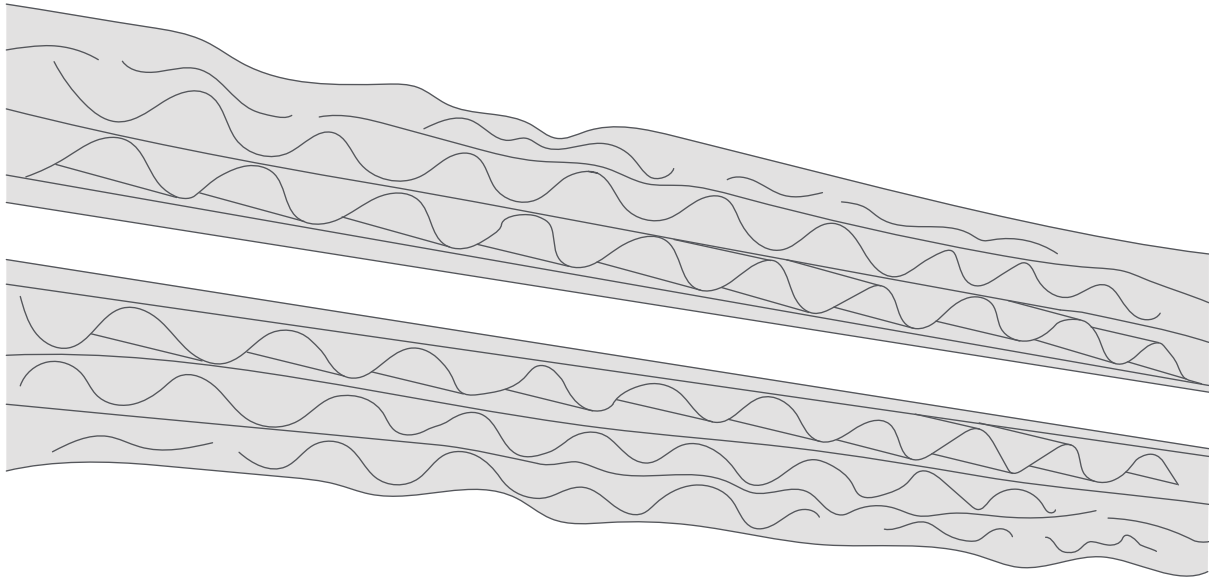
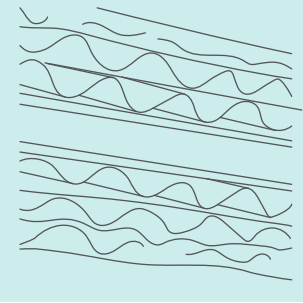
10

NA

Lowest

Highest

Paper



Description

Fibrous sheet material manufactured in thin sheets from the pulp of wood or other fibrous substances such as asbestos. Asbestos paper may be used in rare cases for insulation, fire resistance or electrical applications.

Related terms / Alternative names

Cardboard

Also see

[Millboard or paper-backed vinyl sheet](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

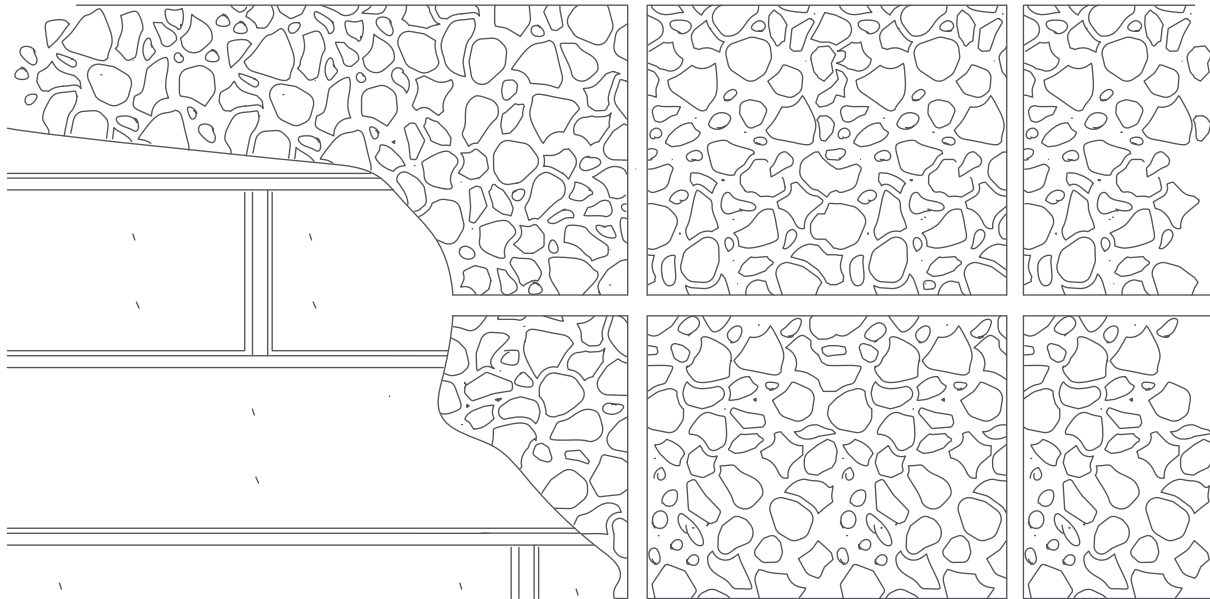
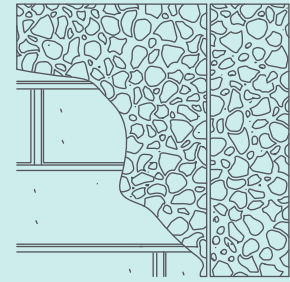
Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

Pebble-rendered cement sheeting



Description

Used on external walls, cement sheet with a coarse plaster surface that consists of lime and, sometimes, cement mixed with sand, small gravel and, often, pebbles. While the pebble mix is asbestos-free, the cement sheet it is coated on may contain asbestos. Also, asbestos-containing adhesive is commonly found affixing the cladding to the wall.

Related terms / Alternative names

Pebble cladding

Also see

[Flat sheeting](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

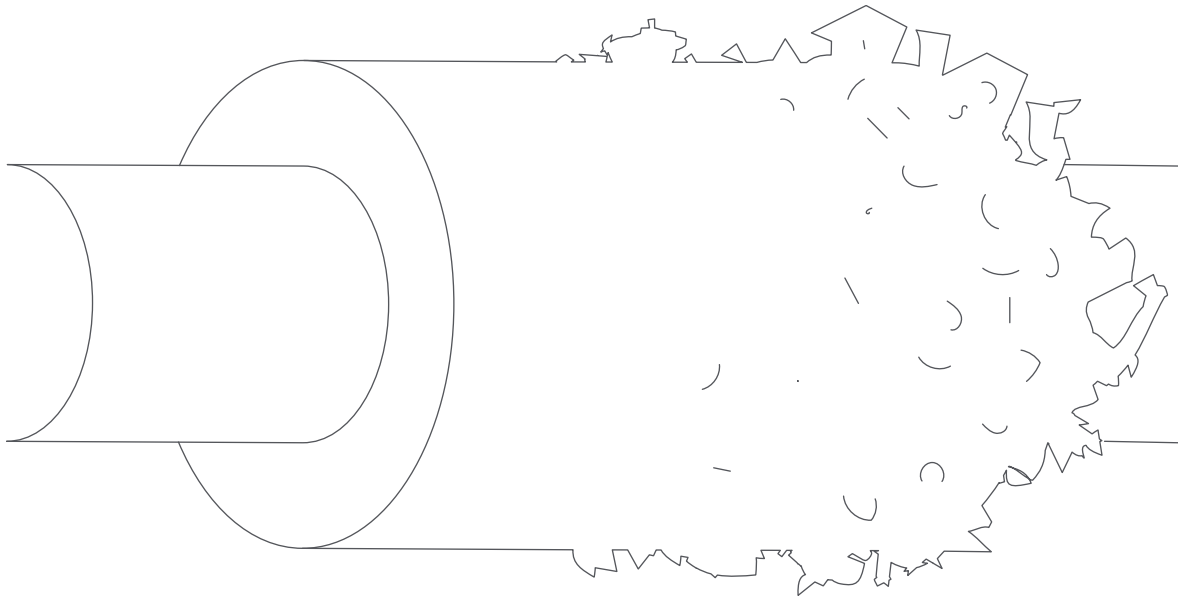
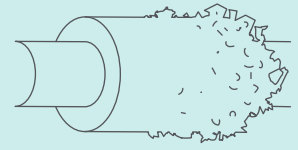
Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

Pipe-lagging residues



Description

Remnant residues of asbestos pipe lagging may be found due to prior, less effective removals of lagging and may exist under more recently installed SMF insulation. Residues may exist as “splatters” on walls and surrounding surfaces as a result of the original lagging application. These splatter residues may be painted over and appear as “bubbles” of paint containing lagging.

Related terms / Alternative names

Insulation

Also see

[Lagging](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

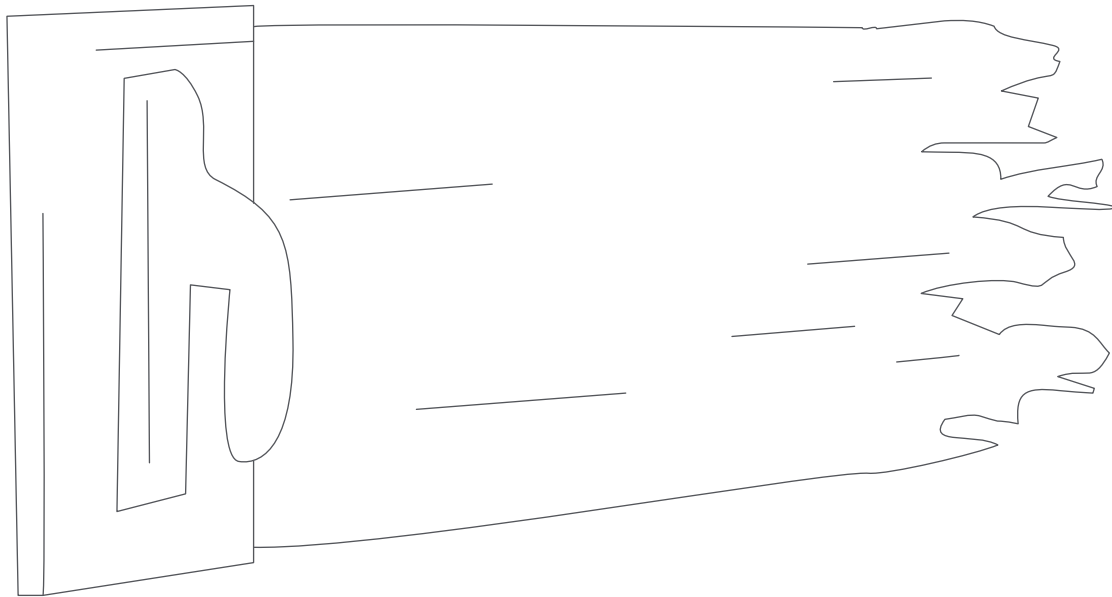
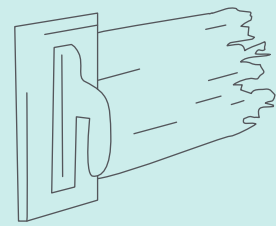
Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

Plaster



Description

A composite of gypsum, lime and cement for spreading or affixing to walls, ceilings or other structures to form a smooth hard surface when dried. Asbestos was rarely used to improve the structural and physical qualities of early plaster.

Also see

[Render](#)

[Textured coating](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

Ease of fibre release

1

2

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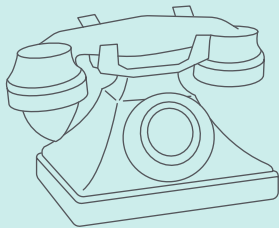
10

NA

Lowest

Highest

Plastic



Description

A synthetic material made from a range of organic polymers. Asbestos fibres were sometimes incorporated into plastics for their physical properties, resulting in a product called Thermoplastic. Asbestos plastics were usually black in appearance and are considered rare in Australia, but can be found as toilet cisterns and seats, electrical components, appliances and cookware.

Related terms / Alternative names

Bakelite

Also see

[Resinous block](#)

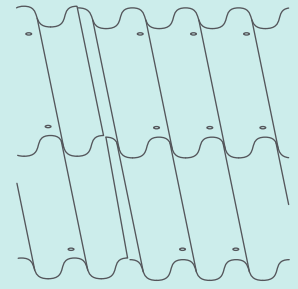
Friability

Non-friable	Friable	Non-asbestos
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Ease of fibre release

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	NA
Lowest										Highest

Profiled roof sheeting



Description

An asbestos-containing cement-based product fabricated with a profile and often used as roofing material or for other external applications.

Related terms / Alternative names

Galbestos

Super Six

Also see

[Corrugated roof sheeting](#)

[Moulded cement sheeting](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

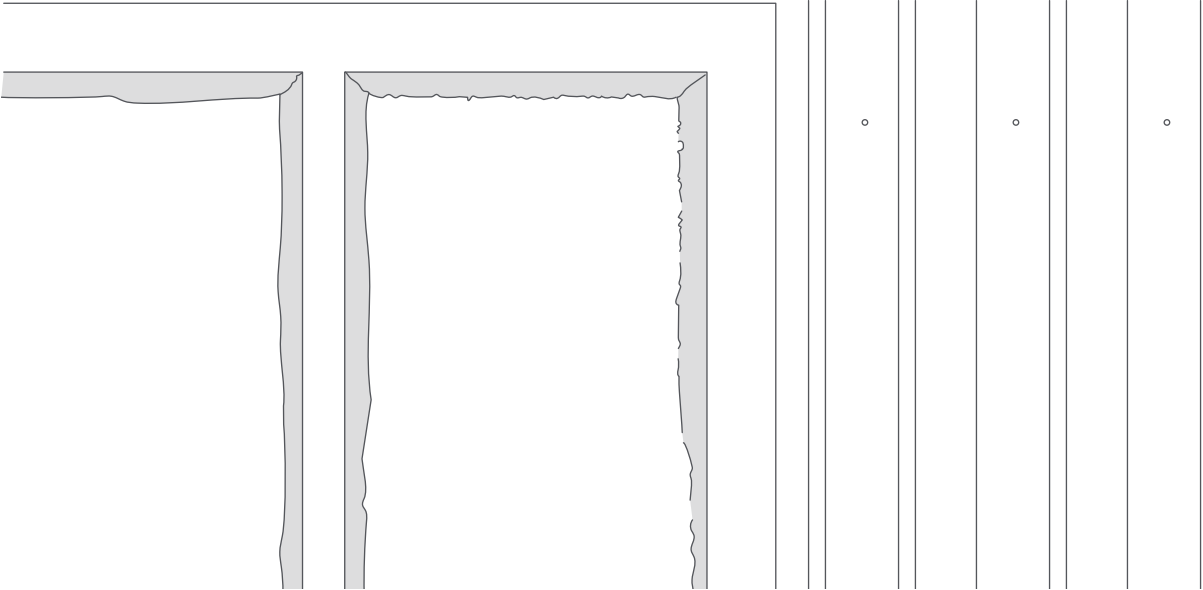
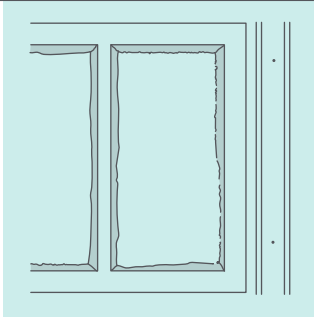
Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

Putty



Description

Asbestos putty is a soft, malleable paste that hardens in a few hours after application. It was most commonly used for sealing glass in window frames, but was also used as a form of fireproofing, protecting the surfaces it was applied to from heat damage.

Also see

[Caulking](#)

[Mastic](#)

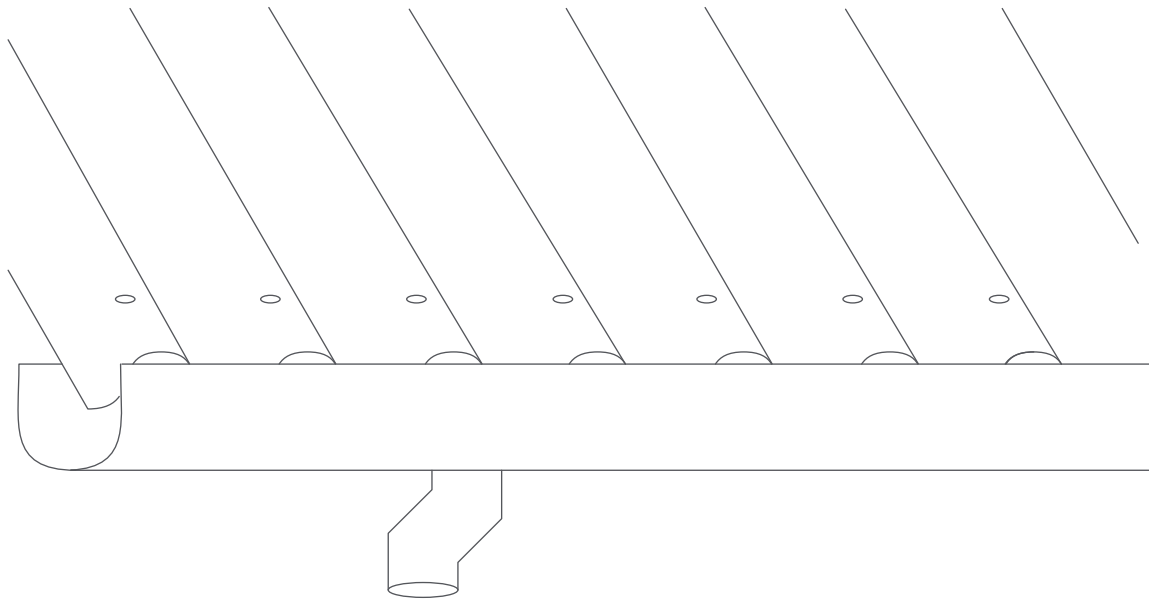
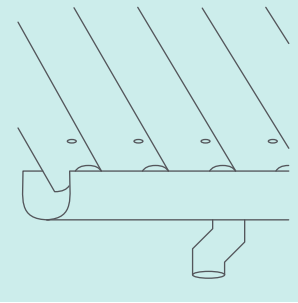
Friability

Non-friable	Friable	Non-asbestos
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Ease of fibre release

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	NA
Lowest					Highest					

Rainwater guttering



Description

Moulded cement sheeting sections which have been shaped to form a gutter. If guttering or roofing contains asbestos, then guttering and associated pipework should be inspected for or be assumed to contain rainwater deposits contaminated with friable asbestos fibre.

Related terms / Alternative names

Box gutter

Super Six

Also see

[Cement pipe](#)

[Moulded cement sheeting](#)

[Valley gutters](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

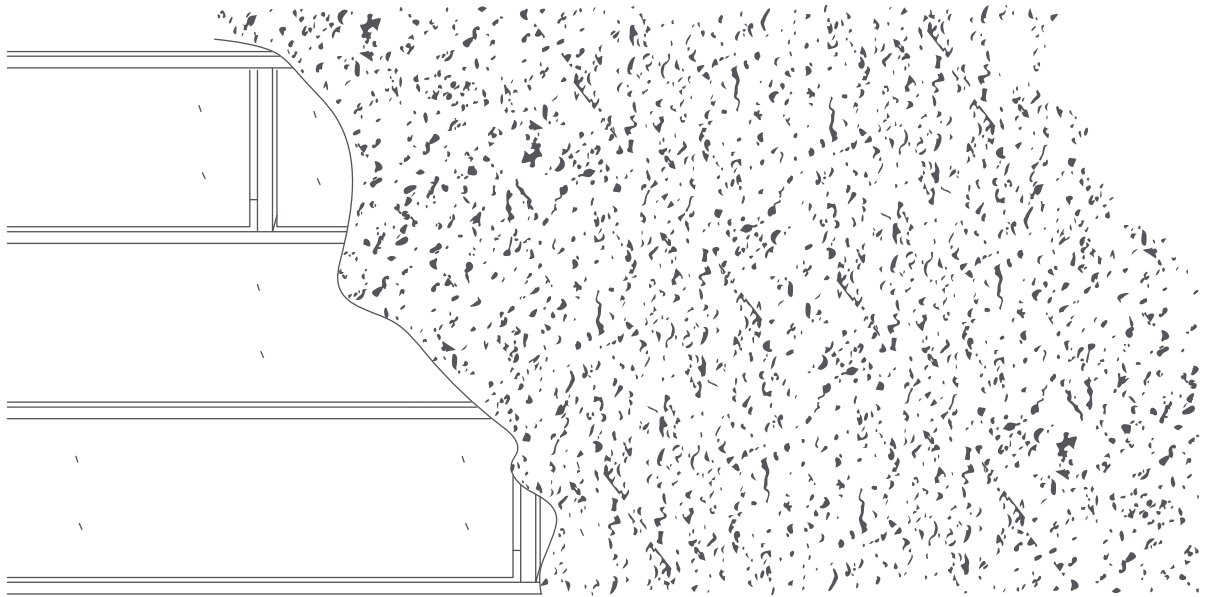
Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

Render



Description

Render is a composite cement material typically applied to walls. It is normally covered with paint or other wall coating to protect the rendered surface from cracks or erosion. In rare circumstances, to improve its structural qualities, render may contain asbestos.

Related terms / Alternative names

Coating

Also see

[Plaster](#)

[Textured coating](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

Ease of fibre release

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

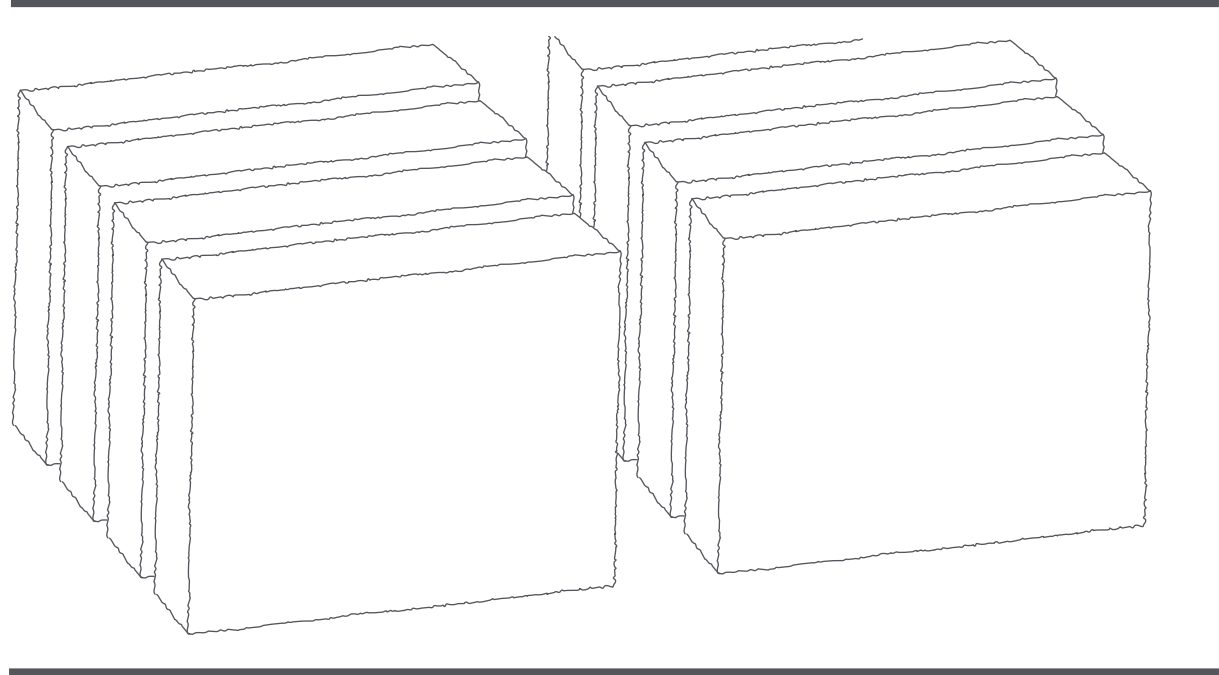
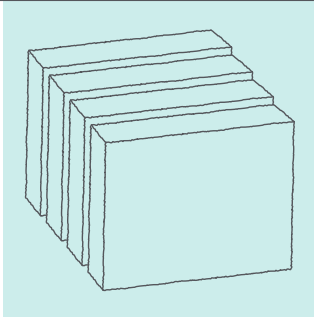
10

NA

Lowest

Highest

Resinous block



Description

A moulded block formed from a synthetic resin mixed with asbestos fibres.

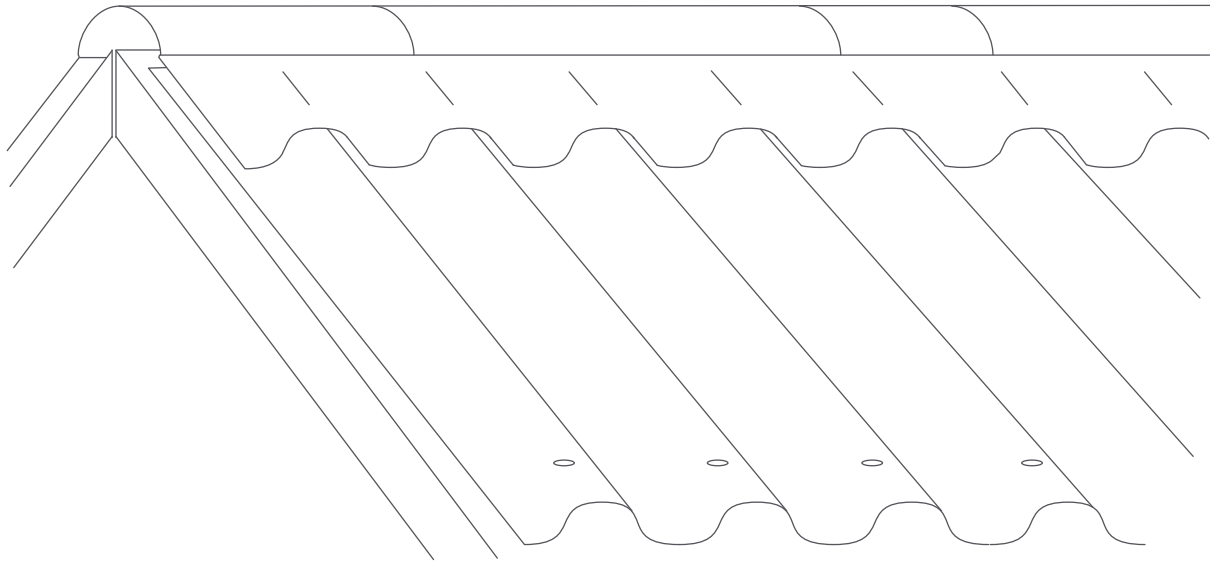
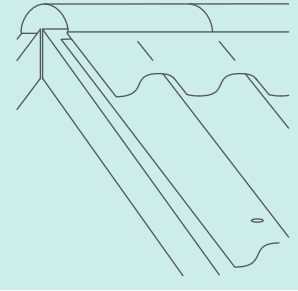
Friability

Non-friable	Friable	Non-asbestos
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Ease of fibre release

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	NA
Lowest										Highest

Ridge capping



Description

Moulded cement sheeting sections which have been shaped to form a capping to the apex or corners of a roof. May form a fluted, smooth, corrugated or half-corrugated shape, depending on application. Commonly found on industrial buildings such as saw-tooth roofs, but may be found in less industrial settings. Ridge capping prevents water ingress where roofing sheets meet at the ridge seam. If guttering or roofing contains asbestos, then guttering and associated pipework should be inspected for or be assumed to contain rainwater deposits contaminated with friable asbestos fibre.

Related terms / Alternative names

Super Six

Also see

[Corrugated roof sheeting](#)

[Profiled roof sheeting](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

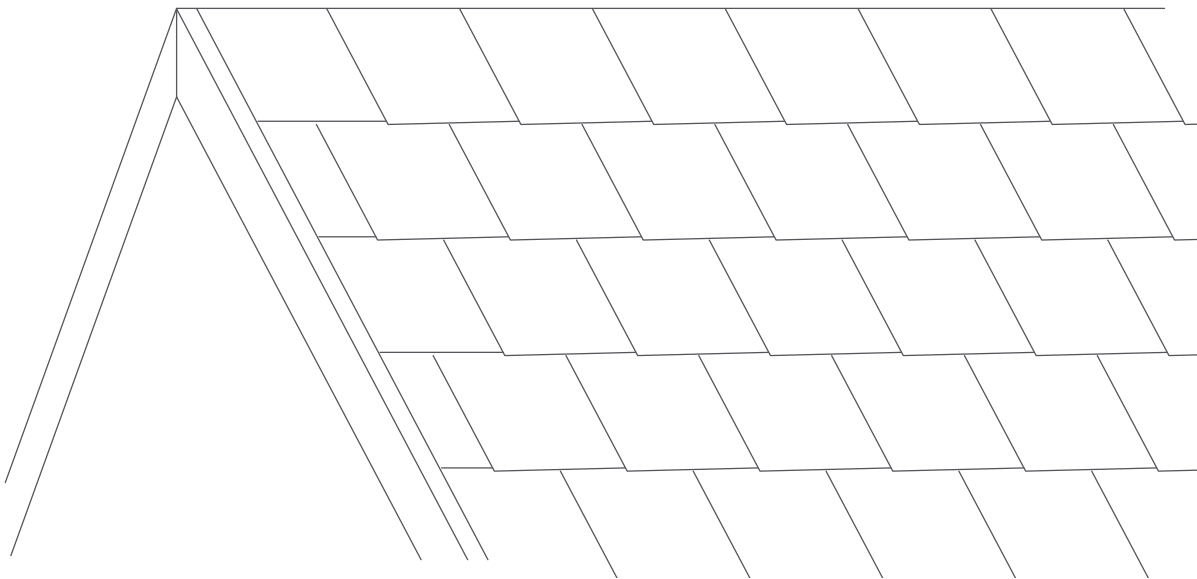
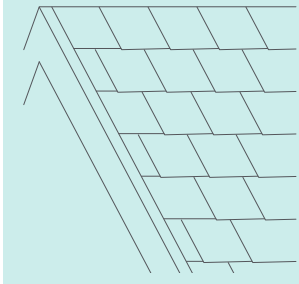
Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

Roof tiles



Description

Roof tiles are often made from materials such as clay, concrete or slate. Small pieces of asbestos-containing cement sheet may have been used as an alternative material for roof tiles.

Also see

[Flat sheeting](#)

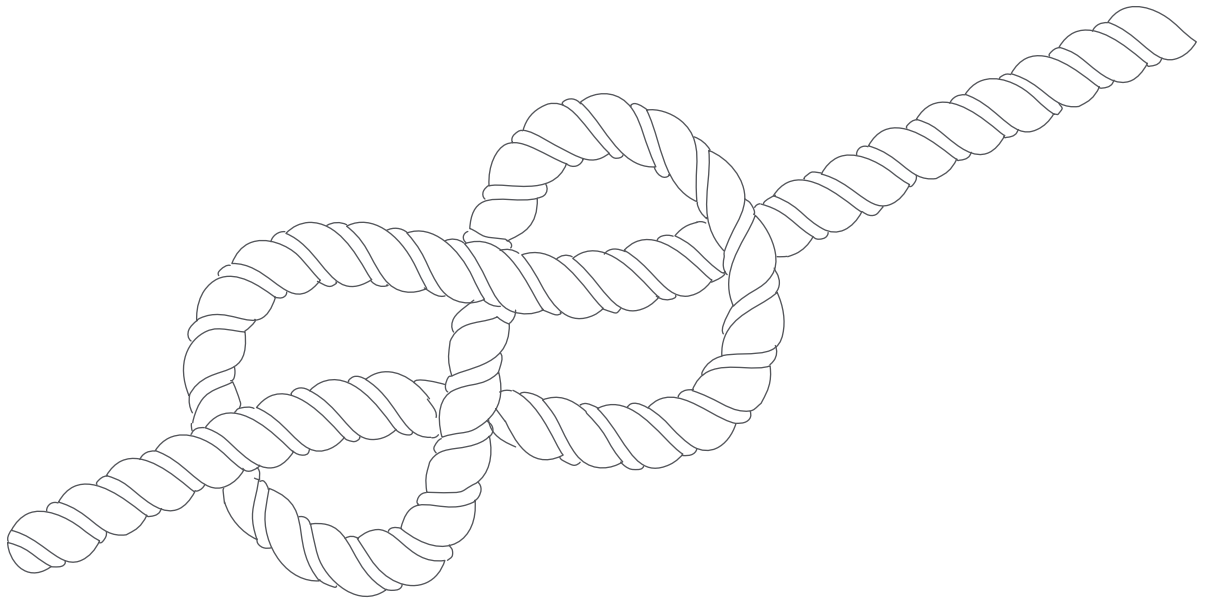
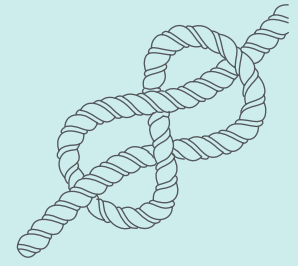
Friability

Non-friable	Friable	Non-asbestos
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Ease of fibre release

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	NA
Lowest										Highest

Rope and string



Description

A length of woven cord. Made by twisting together fibres of several materials which, for a time, included asbestos. Asbestos rope or string was commonly used in insulation, boiler seals, cabinet seals, fire proofing, penetration packing, and automotive, electrical or other industrial applications needing fire and heat resistance.

Also see

[Rope or braided gasket](#)

[Woven products](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

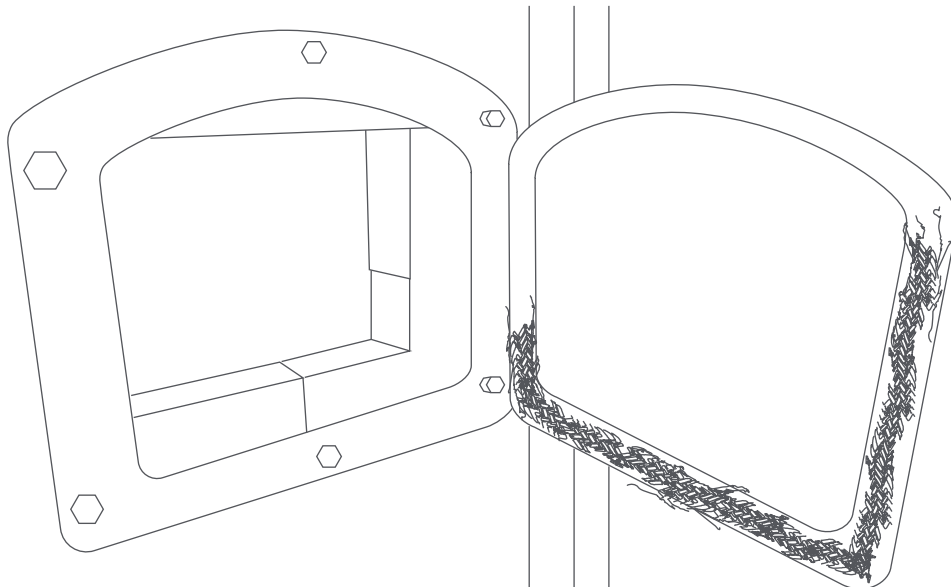
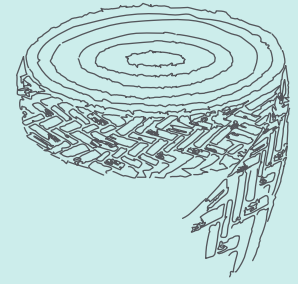
Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

Rope or braided gasket



Description

A rope-based gasket material, made using a length of strong woven cord and commonly made from strands of various non-asbestos materials. For a time, was woven from asbestos fibres. Commonly used as boiler seals, pipe flange seals, cabinet seals, fire proofing or other industrial gasket applications where fire and heat resistance are required.

Also see

[Gaskets](#)

[Rope and string](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

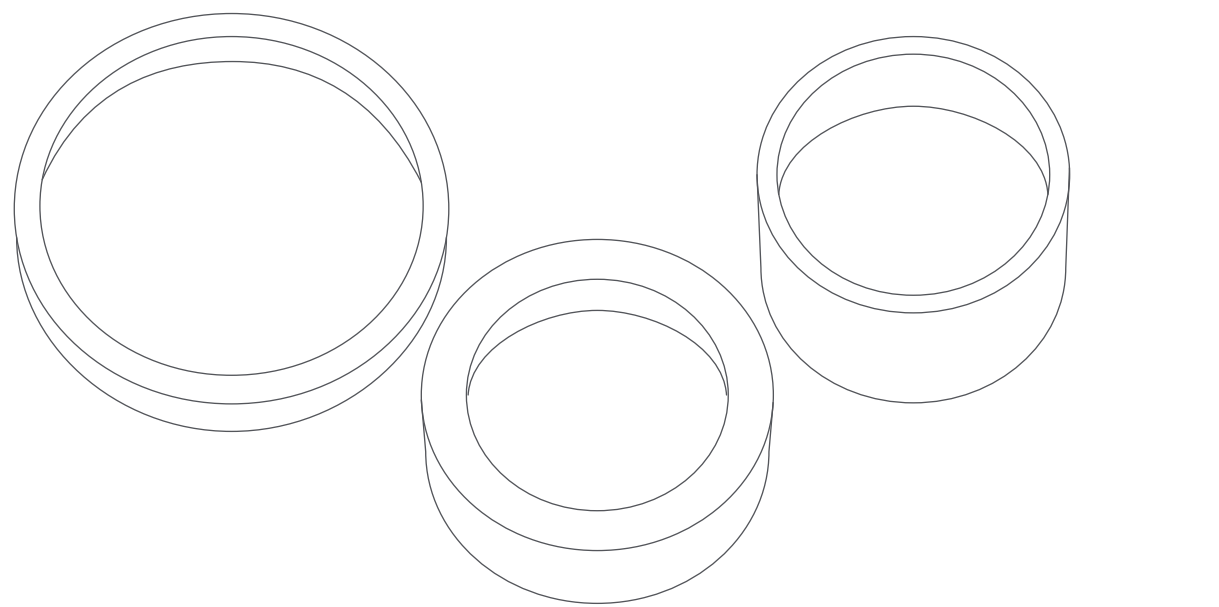
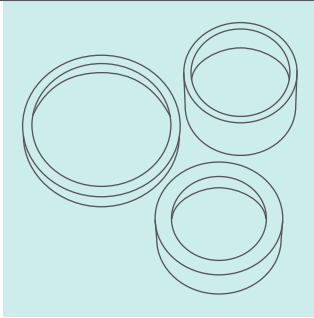
Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

Rubber gasket



Description

A shaped sheet or ring of rubber, sealing the junction between two surfaces such as a flange. Asbestos fibres were sometimes incorporated during fabrication to allow the use of these gaskets in instances needing heat or corrosion resistance. Examples of this are between pipework flange joins, within motors or other plants.

Also see

[Gaskets](#)

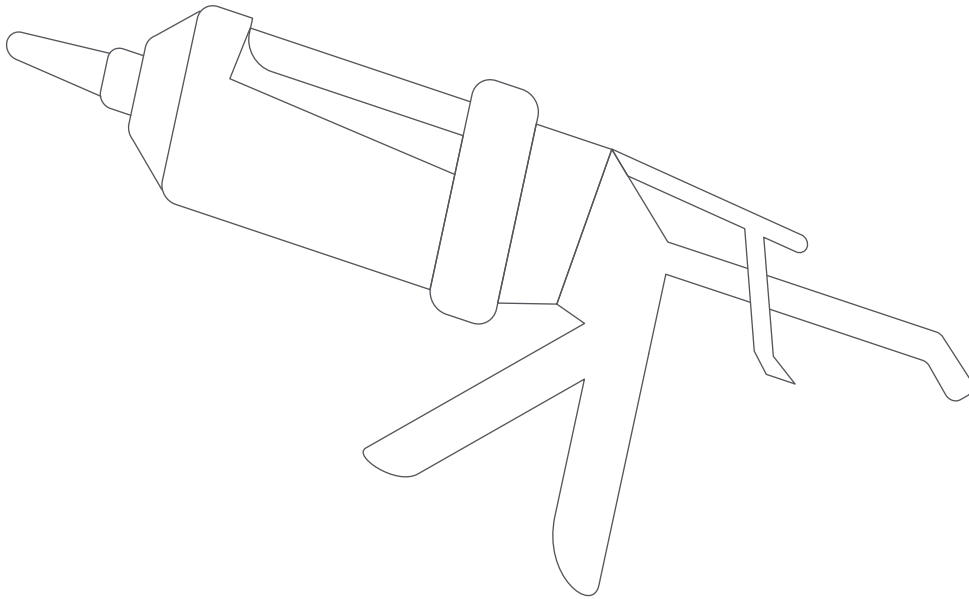
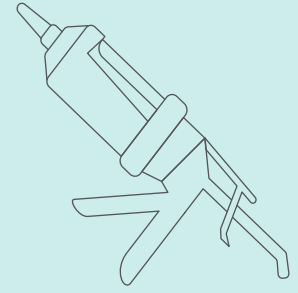
Friability

Non-friable	Friable	Non-asbestos
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Ease of fibre release

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	NA
Lowest										Highest

Silicone



Description

A polymer (substance) made of siloxane compounds. Used as a sealant or an adhesive for its water-resistant and heat-resistant qualities. Typically a non-asbestos item, but will sometimes be found as a modern replacement for asbestos mastics or in applications in place of asbestos mastics.

Also see

Caulking

Mastic

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

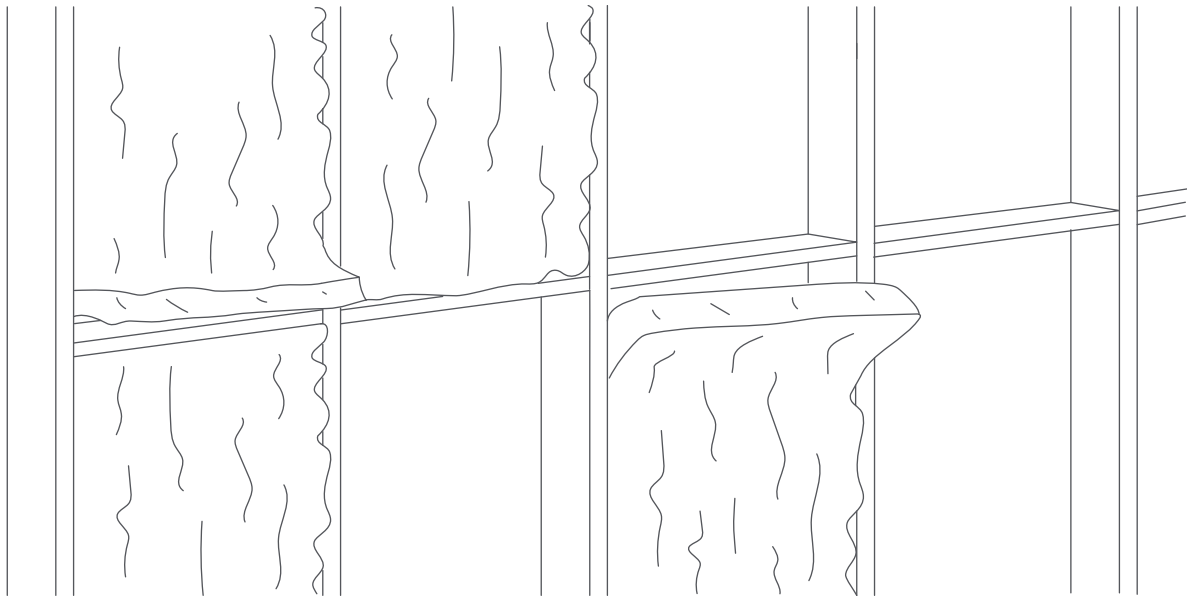
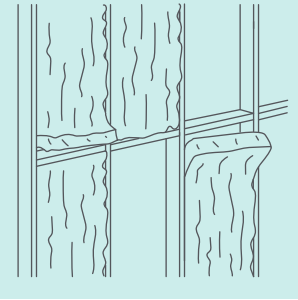
Ease of fibre release

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	NA
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Lowest

Highest

SMF insulation



Description

Synthetic mineral fibre (SMF) is a group of human made fibrous materials consisting of amorphous (non-crystalline) glass fibre mineral, wool or ceramic fibre. Caution must be exercised, and the relevant WHS regulations should be consulted. Refractory ceramic fibre (RCF) should be identified, and relevant hazardous materials legislation referred to separately.

Related terms / Alternative names

Batts

Fibreglass insulation

Also see

[Mineral fibre tiles](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

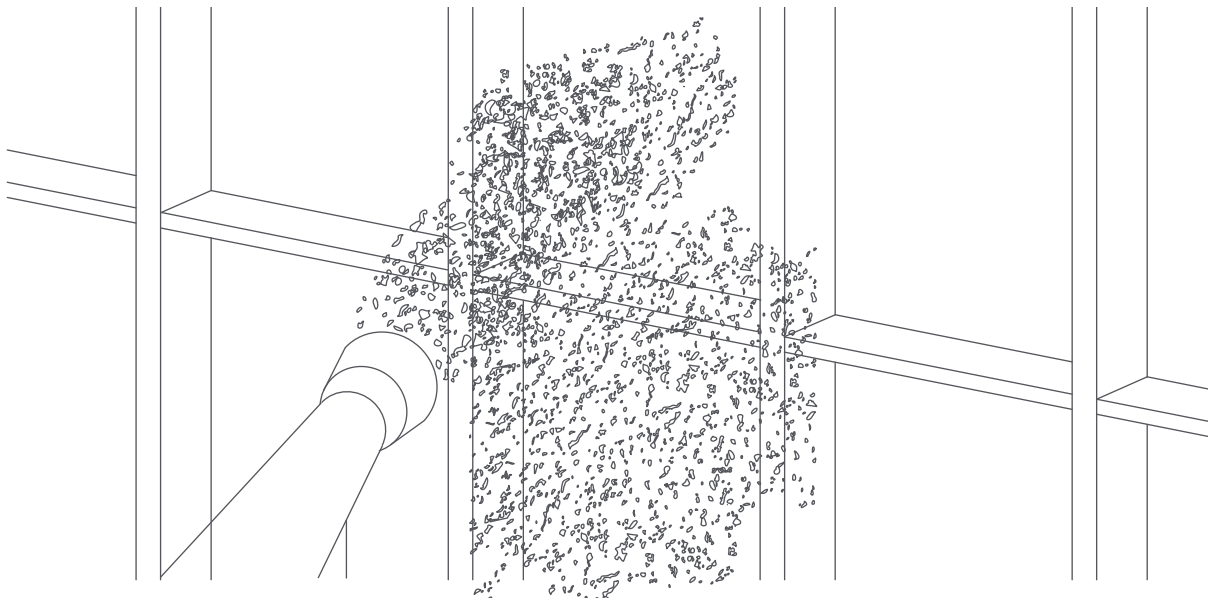
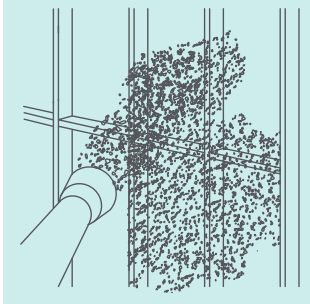
Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

Sprayed insulation



Description

Sprayed insulation contains a mixture of clay, synthetic foam or adhesive, and asbestos fibre. It is applied by spraying the mixture from a compressed-air gun onto the area to be insulated. Sprayed insulation is most commonly found adhered to structural steel beams and wall or floor penetrations in industrial buildings. Due to the method of application, significant overspray is often found on nearby surfaces. A different product to limpet and vermiculite.

Also see

- [Insulation product dust and debris](#)
- [Sprayed asbestos \(limpet\)](#)
- [Vermiculite](#)

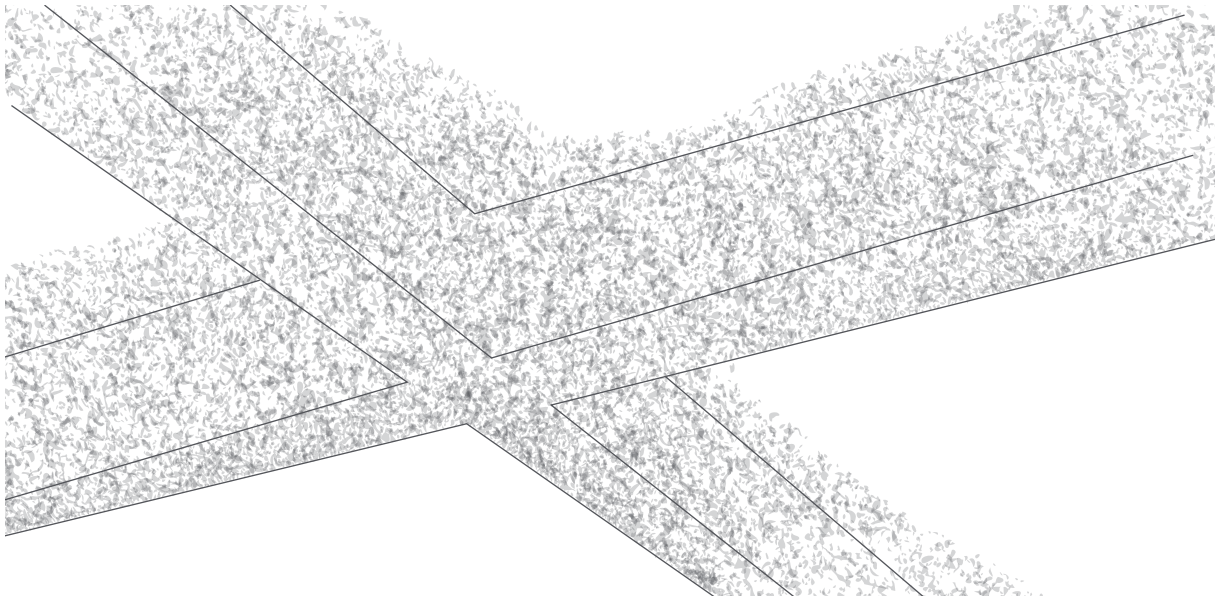
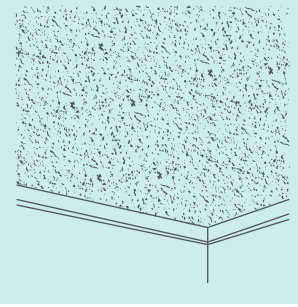
Friability

Non-friable	Friable	Non-asbestos
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Ease of fibre release

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	NA
Lowest									Highest	

Sprayed asbestos (limpet)



Description

A loosely bound, sprayed insulation product that provides fire protection on beams, walls, ceilings, fixing brackets and penetrations. Often found in industrial and multi-storey building applications.

Related terms / Alternative names

Limpet

Also see

[Sprayed insulation](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

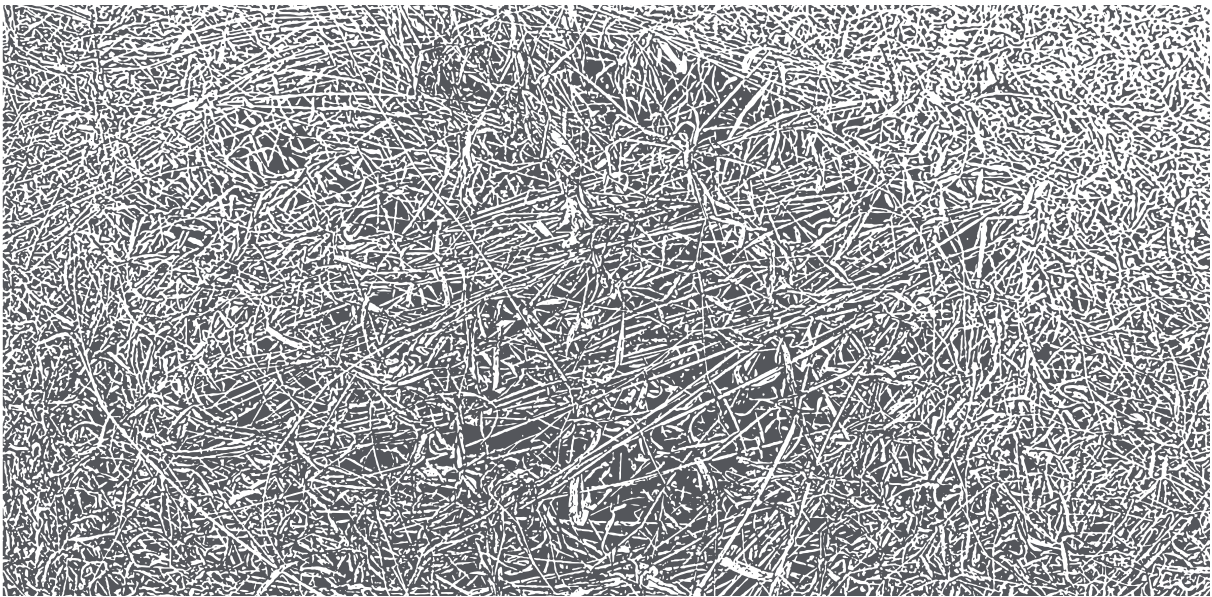
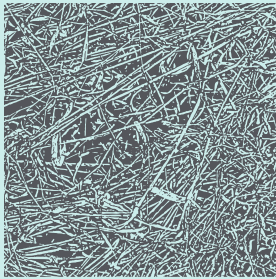
Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

Strawboard



Description

Straw panels are a natural construction material, consisting of extruded wheat or similar straw, compressed with a binding agent into a sheet. The strawboard itself does not contain asbestos, but it can be manufactured with either an asbestos-containing cement sheet or millboard adhered to one side.

Related terms / Alternative names

Stramit Board

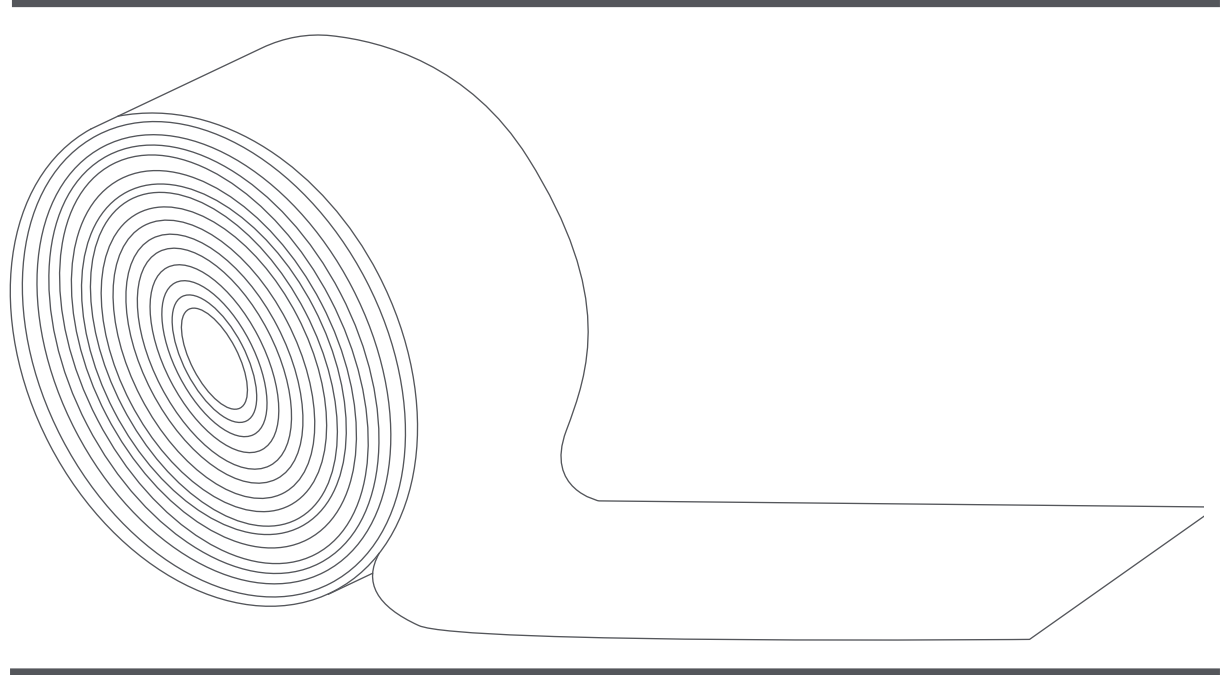
Friability

Non-friable	Friable	Non-asbestos
-------------	---------	--------------

Ease of fibre release

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	NA
Lowest										Highest

Tape



Description

Asbestos tapes exist in two different forms: woven ladder tape, and paper tape. Both of these contain high levels of asbestos. Woven asbestos tape can be found as a seal used in high-temperature circumstances. Asbestos paper tape can be found as a sealant and insulator to ductwork.

Also see

[Woven products](#)

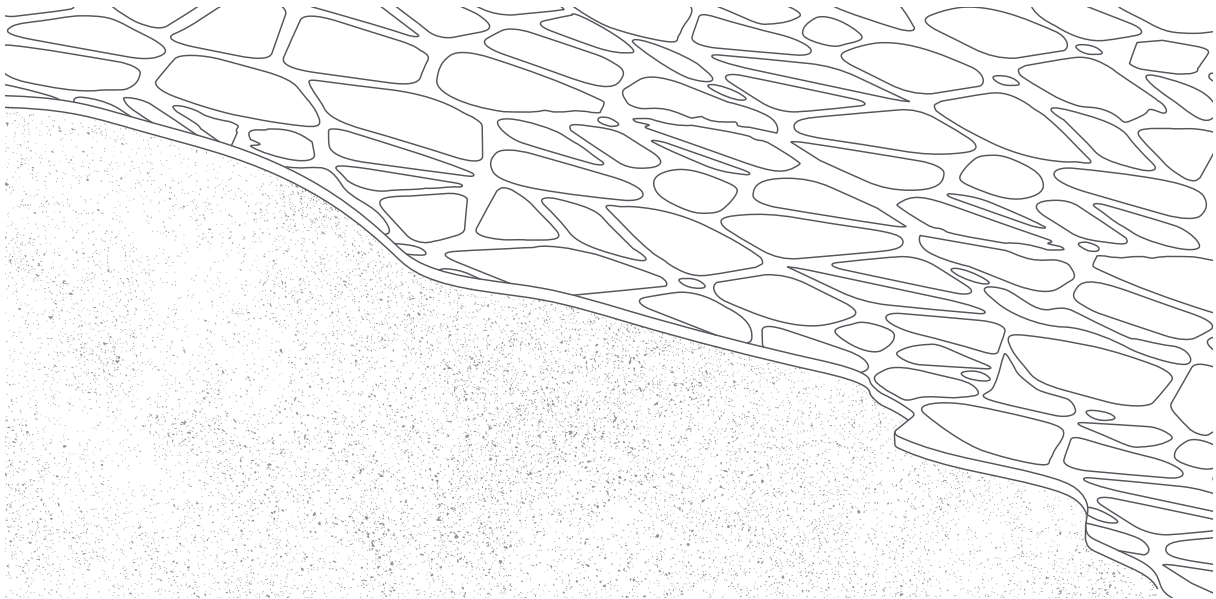
Friability

Non-friable	Friable	Non-asbestos
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Ease of fibre release

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	NA
Lowest										Highest

Terrazzo



Description

Terrazzo is a composite flooring material consisting of chips of marble, granite, quartz or glass set in concrete and polished to give a smooth surface. Asbestos can be found in the cement used to set terrazzo.

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

Ease of fibre release

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

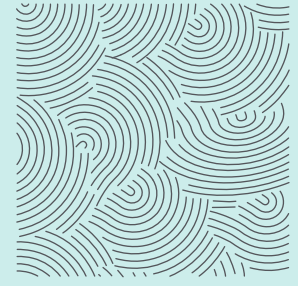
10

NA

Lowest

Highest

Textured coating



Description

Textured coatings are a decorative finish applied to ceilings or walls. Asbestos fibres were sometimes added to the mixture to create a textured appearance. They comprise an aggregate in a binding agent such as plaster. Textured coatings are found in many different patterned finishes that differ in thickness and profile, and may have been painted over. The most common asbestos-containing textured pattern is a circular shape created by the swirling of a sponge during application.

Related terms / Alternative names

Artex
Cement
Coatings

Also see

[Plaster](#)
[Render](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

Ease of fibre release

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

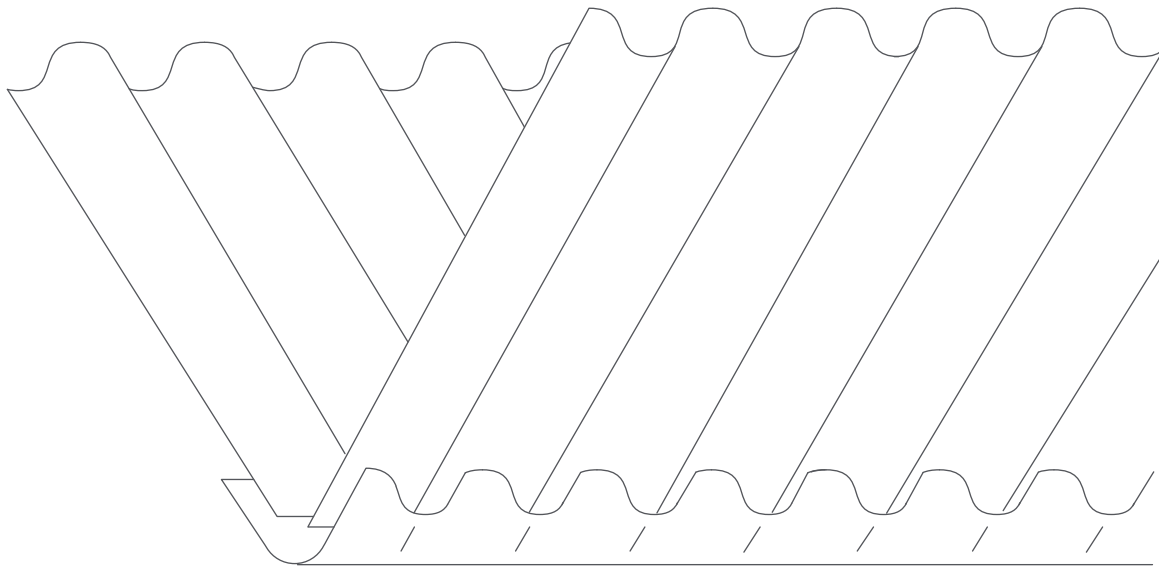
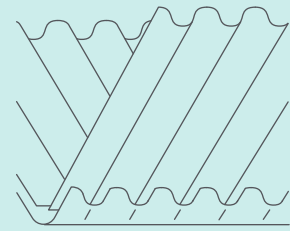
10

NA

Lowest

Highest

Valley gutters



Description

This is the water collection gutter formed between two inwardly pitched roofs or between the blades of a saw-tooth roof. Valley gutters may be constructed of moulded cement sheet sections. If guttering or roofing contains asbestos, then guttering and associated pipework should be inspected for or be assumed to contain the rainwater deposits contaminated with friable asbestos fibres.

Related terms / Alternative names

Box guttering

Super Six

Also see

[Corrugated roof sheeting](#)

[Profiled roof sheeting](#)

[Rainwater guttering](#)

[Ridge capping](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

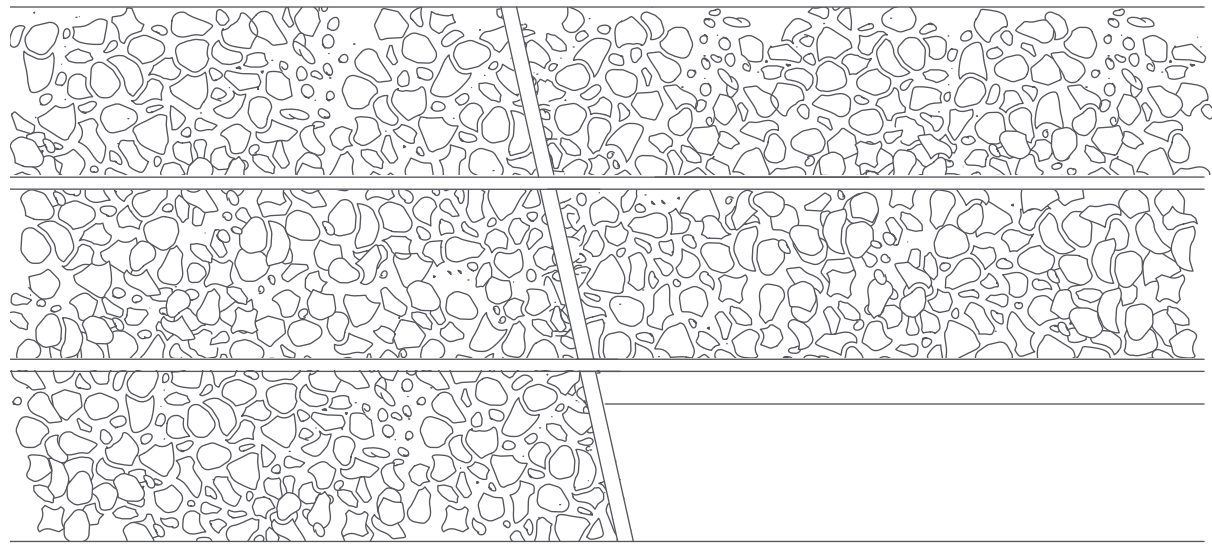
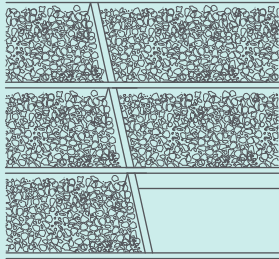
Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

Vermiculite



Description

Vermiculite is a mineral sheet silicate that is often dark- to golden-brown in colour. It is exfoliated by high heat into flaked, crumbly product ready for commercial purposes. Vermiculite itself does not contain asbestos. However, asbestos fibres can be found with vermiculite materials as a result of mineral contamination from the mining process and location of natural deposits. Asbestos content is typically low in vermiculite materials. In the built environment, asbestos-containing vermiculite materials can be found as a friable loose insulation in ceiling cavities or as a non-friable plaster used as a textured coating to ceilings and walls.

Related terms / Alternative names

- Insulation
- Vermiculite ceiling (popcorn ceiling)
- Zonolite

Also see

[Loose-fill insulation](#)

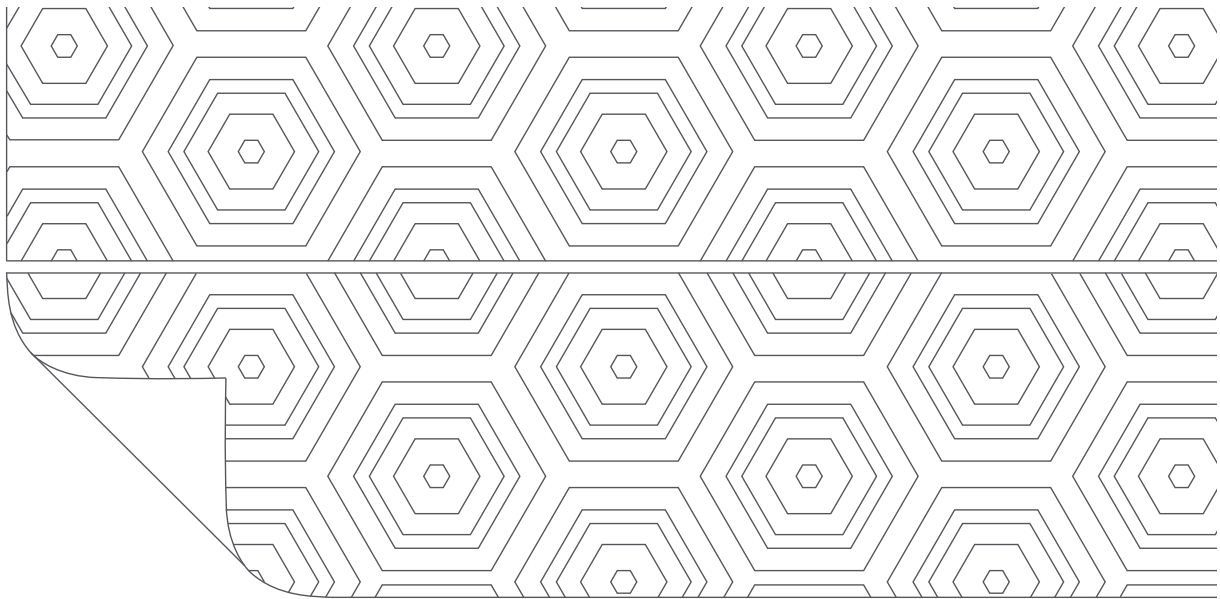
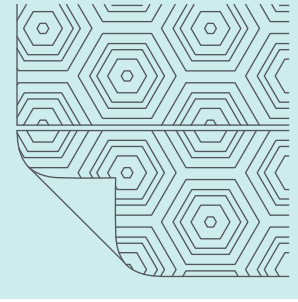
Friability

Non-friable	Friable	Non-asbestos
-------------	---------	--------------

Ease of fibre release

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	NA
Lowest									Highest	

Vinyl sheet



Description

Vinyl sheet is commonly applied as a type of flooring that comes in large, continuous, flexible sheets. Colours and patterns vary considerably. Asbestos can be found in the vinyl itself and, sometimes, the adhesive used to bond it to a surface, but it is most commonly found in the millboard backing to the sheeting.

Related terms / Alternative names

Linoleum/lino

Vinyl

Also see

[Hessian-backed vinyl sheet](#)

[Millboard or paper-backed vinyl sheet](#)

[Vinyl sheet and adhesive](#)

[Vinyl tiles](#)

[Vinyl tiles and adhesive](#)

Friability

Non-friable

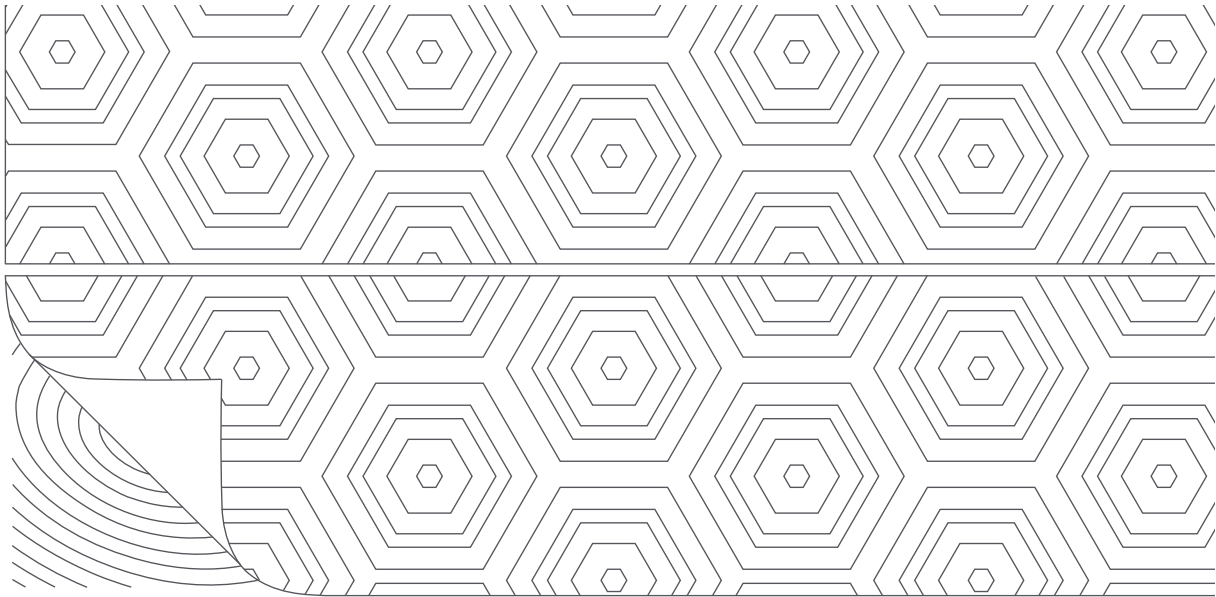
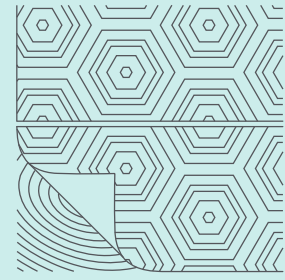
Friable

Non-asbestos

Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA
Lowest Highest

Vinyl sheet and adhesive (non-fibrous backed)



Description

Vinyl sheet is commonly applied as a type of flooring that is manufactured in large, continuous, flexible sheets. Colours and patterns vary considerably. All vinyl backings should be checked to confirm the presence and type of adhesive. Adhesives used to stick vinyl sheeting to the base flooring sometimes contain asbestos and can be impossible to separate from the vinyl sheet.

Related terms / Alternative names

Linoleum/lino

Vinyl

Also see

[Bituminous adhesive \(Blackjack\)](#)

[Vinyl sheet](#)

[Vinyl tiles](#)

[Vinyl tiles and adhesive](#)

Friability

Non-friable

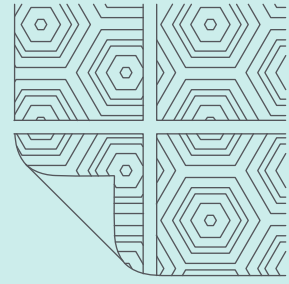
Friable

Non-asbestos

Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA
Lowest Highest

Vinyl tiles



Description

Vinyl tiles are small (commonly 15–30cm), inflexible squares of vinyl. Colours, sizes and patterns vary considerably. Asbestos-containing vinyl tiles are low in fibre content. Commonly used as a floor and, sometimes, wall covering. When sampling vinyl tiles, a sample of each colour should be taken because some colours may contain asbestos and some might not. Vinyl tiles (whether or not they contain asbestos) may be found with asbestos-containing adhesives.

Related terms / Alternative names

Vinyl

Also see

[Vinyl sheet](#)

[Vinyl sheet and adhesive](#)

[Vinyl tiles and adhesive](#)

Friability

Non-friable

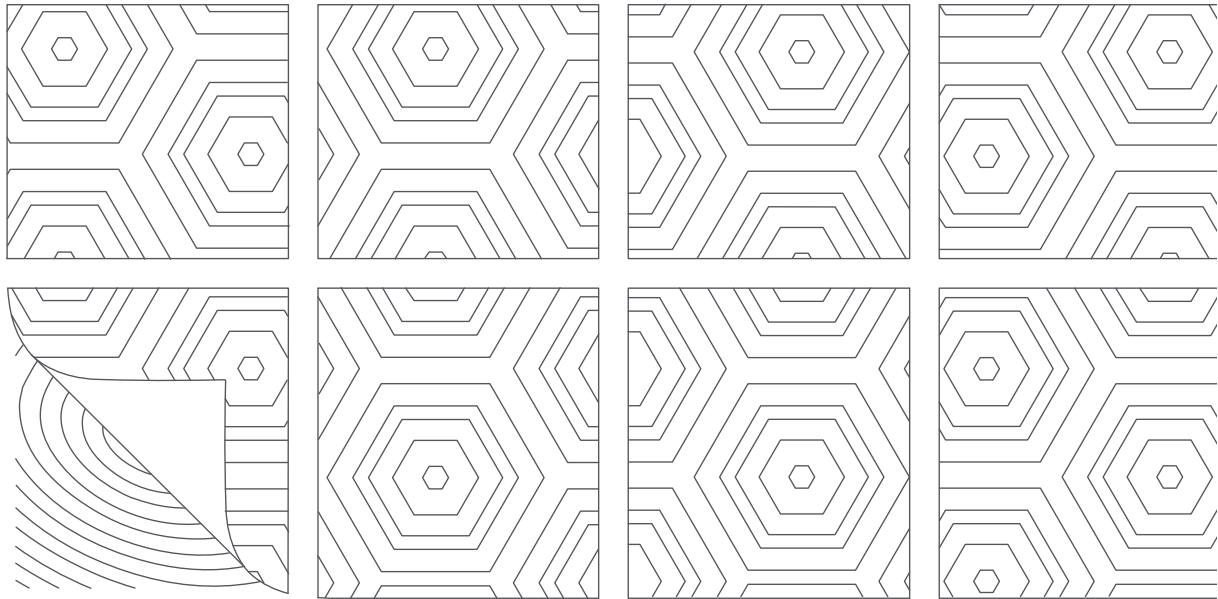
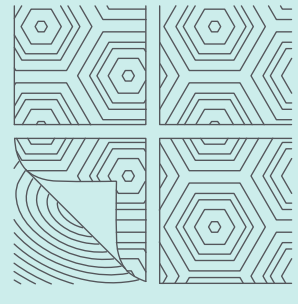
Friable

Non-asbestos

Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA
Lowest Highest

Vinyl tiles and adhesive



Description

Vinyl tiles are small (commonly 15–30cm), inflexible squares of vinyl. Colours and sizes vary considerably. Asbestos-containing vinyl tiles are low in fibre content. Commonly used as a floor and, sometimes, wall covering. When sampling vinyl tiles, a sample of each colour should be taken because some colours may contain asbestos and some might not. The adhesives associated with vinyl floor tiles (whether or not they contain asbestos) can often contain asbestos, particularly those that are black and bituminous (Blackjack).

Related terms / Alternative names

Blackjack

Also see

[Bituminous adhesive \(Blackjack\)](#)

[Vinyl sheet](#)

[Vinyl sheet and adhesive](#)

[Vinyl tiles](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

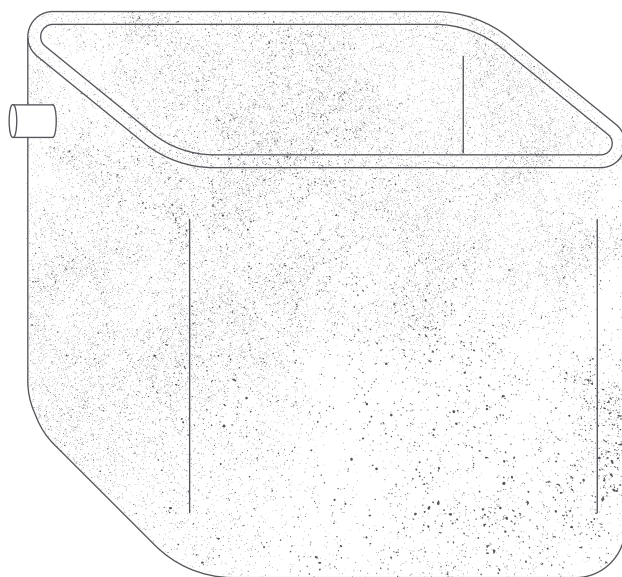
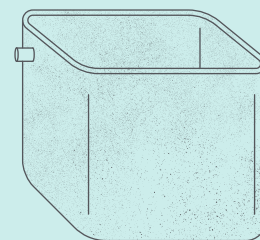
Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

Water tanks



Description

Asbestos cement water tanks were made from moulded cement and are typically low in asbestos content (5-10%). They are not common in Australia.

Also see

[Moulded cement products](#)

Friability

Non-friable

Friable

Non-asbestos

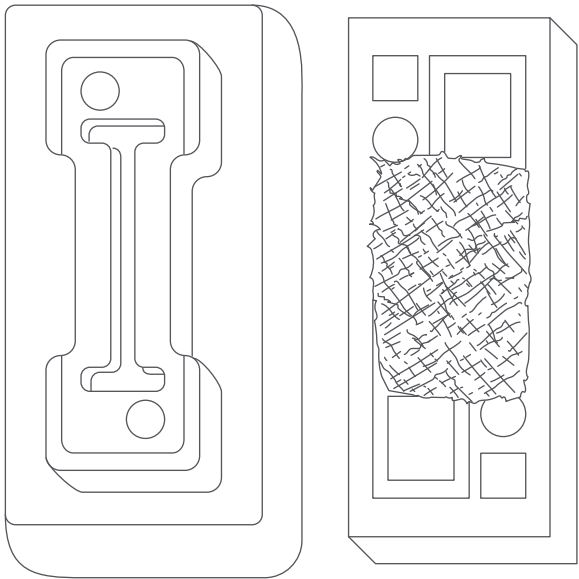
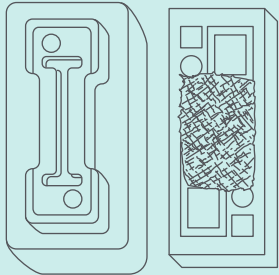
Ease of fibre release

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 NA

Lowest

Highest

Woven products



Description

Asbestos woven products are common in applications requiring fire, heat and electrical resistance.

Also see

- [Calico wrap](#)
- [Cloth](#)

Friability

Non-friable	Friable	Non-asbestos
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Ease of fibre release

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	NA
Lowest										Highest

