

Australian Asbestos Mining History

Summary of Mining History in Australia, 1880-1976

State	Location	Asbestos Type
New South	Baryulgil	Chrysotile
	Woods Reef	Chrysotile
	Orange district	Tremolite
	Gundagai district	Actinolite
	Broken Hill district	Chrysotile
Tasmania	Beaconsfield district	Chrysotile, Amphibole
	Zeehan district	Chrysotile
South Australia	Robertstown	Crocidolite
	Flinders Rangers (Oraparinna Station)	Crocidolite
	Truro district	Crocidolite, Tremolite
	Cowell	Chrysotile
Western	Lionel	Chrysotile
(Pilbara)	Sloansville	Chrysotile
	Nunyeri	Chrysotile
	Wittenoom Gorges	Crocidolite
	Yampire Gorge	Crocidolite
	Colonial Gorge	Crocidolite
	Bindi Bindi	Anthophyllite

(Nevill, 1994; Imray & Neville, 1993)

This list of items has been compiled in good faith but may not be complete.

A

Air-conditioning ducts – exterior or interior acoustic and thermal insulation

Arc shields in lift motor rooms or large electrical cabinets

Asbestos-based plastics products –as electrical insulates and acid-resistant compositions or aircraft seats

Asbestos ceiling tiles

Asbestos cement conduits

Asbestos cement electrical fuse boards

Asbestos cement external roofs and walls

Asbestos cement in the use of form work when pouring concrete

Asbestos cement internal flues and downpipes

Asbestos cement moulded products, such as gutters, ridge cappings, gas meter covers, cable troughs and covers

Asbestos cement pieces for packing spaces between floor joists and piers

Asbestos cement underground pits, as used for traffic control wiring and telecommunications cabling
Asbestos cement render, plaster, mortar and coursework
Asbestos cement sheet
Asbestos cement sheet behind ceramic tiles
Asbestos cement sheet internal over exhaust canopies, such as ovens and fume cupboards
Asbestos cement sheet internal walls and ceilings
Asbestos cement sheet underlays for vinyl
Asbestos cement storm drain pipes
Asbestos cement water pipes (usually underground)
Asbestos-containing laminates (eg Formica) used where heat resistance is required (eg ships)
Asbestos-containing pegboard
Asbestos felts
Asbestos marine board (eg marinate)
Asbestos mattresses used for covering hot equipment in power stations
Asbestos paper used variously for insulation, filtering and production of fire resistant laminates
Asbestos roof tiles
Asbestos textiles
Asbestos textile gussets in air-conditioning ducting systems
Asbestos yarn
Autoclave/steriliser insulation

B

Bearings/bushes in large valves
Bitumen-based water proofing such as malthoid (typically on roofs and floors but also in brickwork)
Bituminous adhesives and sealants
Blackjack glue used as vinyl adhesive
Boiler gaskets
Boiler insulation, slabs and wet mix
Brake disc pads
Brake linings

C

Cable penetration insulation bags
Calorifier insulation
Car body filters (not common)
Car heater ductwork
Caulking compounds, sealant and adhesives
Cement render
Chrysotile wicks in kerosene heaters
Clutch faces
Clutch washers
Compressed asbestos cement panels for flooring, verandas, bathrooms and steps for demountable buildings
Compressed asbestos fibres (CAF) used in brakes and gaskets for plant and vehicles

D

Door seals on ovens

E

Electric heat banks – block insulation

Electric hot water services (normally not asbestos but some millboard could be present)

Electric light fittings, high wattage, insulation around fitting (and bituminised)

Electrical switchboards (see pitch-based)

Exhausts on vehicles

F

Filler in acetylene gas cylinders

Filters – beverage, wine filtration

Fire blankets

Fire curtains

Fire door insulation

Fire-rated wall rendering containing asbestos with mortar

Fire-resistant plaster board, typically on ships

Fire-retardant material on steel work supporting reactors on columns in refineries in the chemical industry

Flexible hoses

Floor vinyl sheets

Floor vinyl tiles

Fuse blankets and ceramic fuses in switchboards

G

Galbestos™ roofing materials (decorative coating on metal roofs for sound proofing) also used for cladding in industrial buildings

Gaskets – chemicals, refineries

Gaskets – general

Gauze mats in laboratories/chemical refineries

Gland packing

Gloves – for insulation against heat

H

Hairdryers – insulation around heating elements

Header (manifold) insulation

I

Insulation blocks

Insulation in electric reheat units for air-conditioner systems

Ironing boards – the plate to sit the hot iron on.

K

Kitchen sink – sound deadening material underneath

L

Laboratory bench tops

Laboratory fume cupboard panels

Laboratory ovens – wall insulation

Lagged exhaust pipes on emergency power generators

Lagging in penetrations in fireproof walls

Lift shafts – asbestos cement panels lining the shaft at the opening of each floor and asbestos packing around penetrations

Limpet asbestos spray insulation

Locomotives (steam) lagging on boilers, steam lines, steam dome and gaskets

M

Mastics
Millboard between heating units and walls
Millboard lining of switchboxes
Mortar

P

Packing materials for gauges, valves etc – can be square packing, rope or loose fibre
Packing material on window anchorage points in high-rise buildings
Paint (typically industrial epoxy paints)
Penetrations through concrete slabs in high-rise buildings
Pipe insulation including moulded sections, water-mix type, rope braid and sheet
Pitch-based (eg Zelemite, Ausbestos, Lebah) electrical switchboards
Plaster and plaster cornice adhesives
Pump insulation

R

Refractory linings
Refractory tiles
Rubber articles (extent of usage unknown)

S

Sealant between floor slab and wall, usually in boiler rooms, risers or lift shafts
Sealant or mastic on windows
Sealants and mastics in air-conditioning ducting joints
Spackle or plasterboard wall-jointing compounds
Sprayed insulation – acoustic wall and ceiling
Sprayed insulation – beams and ceiling slabs
Sprayed insulation – fire retardant sprayed on nut internally, for bolts holding external building wall panels
Stoves – old domestic type, wall insulation

T

Tape and rope – lagging and jointing
Tapered ends of pipe lagging (where lagging is not necessarily asbestos)
Telecom pits
Tilux sheeting in place of ceramic tiles in bathrooms
Trailing cable under lift cabins
Trains, guards vans, millboard between heater and wall
Trains – Harris cars (sprayed asbestos between steel shell and laminex)

V

Valve insulation
Valve gland packing
Valve spindle bearings

W

Washers/spacers
Welding rods
Woven asbestos cable sheath