

**Take action
(con.t)**

- **Quit smoking. If you are a smoker, quit smoking. Smoking combined with asbestos exposure greatly increases the risk of getting lung cancer.**
- **Get regular influenza (flu) and pneumonia shots. Regular inoculations help reduce the chance of lung infections.**

Get involved

You can help by sharing this fact sheet with former workers, their family members, and people who lived near the plant. Please give them the numbers below to call for more information.

Stay informed

If you or your doctor wants more information about the site investigation or wants to ask specific questions, contact

Maria Teran-Maclver, Community Involvement Specialist
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
1600 Clifton Road NE, MS E-32
Atlanta, GA 30333
Phone toll-free: 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636)
email: MTeran-Maciver@cdc.gov

If you are a former worker, we would like to send you additional information about the potential health effects of asbestos exposure. You may also be able to help us contact other former Flintkote workers.

**Health
Consultation
Report**

To access a hard copy of the Health Consultation report for this site, visit the Reference Desk at the following library:
Fremont Main Library
2400 Stevenson Boulevard
Fremont, CA 94538
Phone: (510) 745-1444

To read an electronic copy of the Health Consultation, go to Web site: http://www.ehib.org/cma/project.jsp?project_key=VERM01

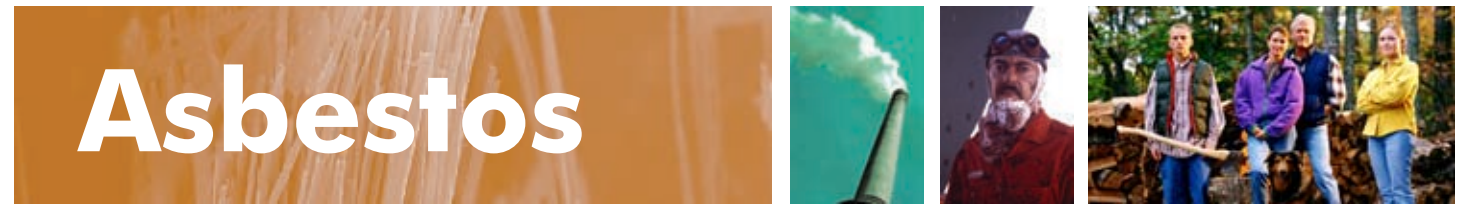
**More
Information**

To get more information on asbestos exposure and your health, go to the web site: <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/asbestos/>

People with asbestos-related disease may qualify for financial help and insurance coverage under federal and state laws. For more information, go to the National Cancer Institute Web site at:

<http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/factsheet/Risk/asbestos>

1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636)



Asbestos

Neighborhood Health Alert

Regarding Flintkote Company, 27975 Shinn Street, Fremont, California

Overview

Introduction

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH), along with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), a federal public health agency, has completed an evaluation of the Flintkote Company, 27975 Shinn Street, Fremont, California. The evaluation considered ways that people could be exposed to asbestos from this site now or ways that people could have been exposed in the past.

The evaluation included a review of cancer records and death certificate information in the area near the facility. This was done to see if cancers and deaths that could be related to asbestos were higher than expected.

Who should read this

Read this alert if you or someone you know:

- Worked at the plant between 1967 and 1979
- Lived in a household in which someone worked at the plant between 1967 and 1979, or
- Lived near the plant for any period between 1967 and 1979
- Currently lives near the Flintkote facility.

Why this site was evaluated

The Flintkote facility in Fremont received vermiculite from a mine in Libby, Montana from 1967 to 1979. Vermiculite from Libby was found to contain asbestos.

Purpose of alert

This alert explains:

- Who might be at risk for exposure to asbestos from the plant now or at risk from past exposure;
- How people are or were exposed to asbestos ;
- What to do if you think you've been exposed to asbestos; and
- Where you can get more information.



Am I at risk for asbestos exposure?

Important!	<i>Being exposed to asbestos does not mean that you will develop health problems! Many things need to be considered when evaluating whether you are at risk for health problems from asbestos exposure. A doctor can help you find out if you have health problems from asbestos exposure.</i>
Former workers are most at risk	The plant added vermiculite with gypsum to produce fire-resistant wallboard. Asbestos fibers were released into the air in the plant at times when fire-resistant fireboard was made, approximately once a week. Workers may have been exposed to low levels of asbestos anywhere in and around the plant. The following work activities are known to have released fibers into the air: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dumping the vermiculite into the dry-ingredient hopper; and• Cutting the fire-resistant wallboard to size.
Family members of former workers	Workers who were exposed may have brought asbestos fibers home on their clothes, shoes, and bodies. Therefore, people who lived in their households could have been exposed to asbestos, too. Even handling and washing a worker's clothes could have exposed someone to asbestos.
Former residents	Sometimes when the plant was operating, dust and asbestos fibers were released into the air. People who lived within a few blocks of the plant between 1967 and 1979 might have breathed in air that contained asbestos fibers.
Current workers	Flintkote stopped using Libby vermiculite in 1979. No tests of air, dust, and soil for this site have been conducted to see if asbestos contamination from Libby vermiculite currently exists. Based on sampling data from other gypsum facilities that received Libby vermiculite, CDPH concludes that is highly unlikely that asbestos contamination remains at this facility that would pose a risk to current and future workers. Sampling at this facility could confirm this conclusion.
Current residents	Current residents living in the neighborhood are not being exposed to asbestos from the site. The plant stopped using vermiculite that was contaminated with asbestos in 1979.

How can asbestos exposure make you sick?

Asbestos exposure and health	Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral. It is made up of fibers that are so small that you cannot see them. If asbestos fibers are in the air you breathe, you will get asbestos fibers in your lungs. This is the primary way that people are exposed to asbestos.
	Asbestos fibers may remain in the lungs for a lifetime. In some cases, the fibers might damage the lungs or the lining of the lungs, leading to cancer, other illnesses, and even death.

What did the review of cancer records and death certificates find?

Review of asbestos-related illness in the area	ATSDR and CDPH reviewed cancer records from 1986-1995 to determine how many people living near the facility got types of cancers that can be caused by asbestos exposure. ATSDR and CDPH also reviewed death certificate information from 1989-1998 to determine how many people living in the zip code where the facility is located died of types of diseases that can be caused by asbestos.
Results of the asbestos-related illness review	The cancer records did not show that the number of cancer illnesses associated with asbestos exposure was higher than expected. The death certificate information showed scattered evidence that the number of deaths associated with asbestos exposure was higher than expected. But the cancer records and death certificate information are not perfect for telling us if asbestos from the Flintkote facility made people sick. It is highly likely that the people living near Flintkote during the years that Libby vermiculite was processed were not included in this review of cancer records and death certificate information. Also, in some diseases like lung cancer, it is difficult to tell if a person died as a result of asbestos exposure or something else like smoking.

What should I do if I have been exposed?

Take action	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inform your doctor. Even if you don't feel sick, tell your doctor that you might have been exposed to asbestos. Most people don't show any signs or symptoms of asbestos-related disease for 10 to 20 years or more after exposure. Only a doctor can tell if you have any health problems due to asbestos exposure. Your doctor may refer you to a specialist who treats diseases caused by asbestos.• Show this fact sheet to your doctor. Please take this fact sheet to your doctor because the information in it might be helpful in evaluating your health risk.
--------------------	---
