

Contact the experts.

Contact the DEQ or your local health department for instructions about proper and safe handling.



Karstolite insulation in an attic



Asbestos ore (anthophyllite)

Montana Department of
Environmental Quality contacts

Asbestos ore found in soils:

Site Response Section
Remediation Division
1-800-246-8198

Asbestos insulation materials:

Asbestos Control Program
Permitting and Compliance Division
(406) 444-5300



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Karstolite Insulation and Other Asbestos

Know the facts.
Know what to do.



Karstolite insulation in an attic

The Montana Department of
Environmental Quality

1-800-246-8198
(406) 444-5300
www.Karstolite.mt.gov

Karstolite and other asbestos—what to do if you find it

Karstolite is the brand name of asbestos insulation milled from ore originating at the Karst Mine near Big Sky, Montana. Asbestos from the Karst Mine is called “anthophyllite” and is of the “amphibole” group of naturally occurring fibrous minerals known as asbestos.

Anthophyllite asbestos has been found in soils and insulation materials in the Bozeman area. Karstolite insulation has also been found in buildings in Helena and Livingston. The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is encouraging residents and contractors to be aware of the possibility of anthophyllite asbestos in homes and commercial buildings built before 1960, and outdoors in soils where it was used as fill material.

Researchers have determined that asbestos is a human carcinogen. People who are exposed to asbestos may have an increased risk of developing respiratory diseases such as lung cancer, asbestosis and mesothelioma, a rare form of cancer.



Karstolite insulation bag

Where is it found?

In attics and walls—Karstolite insulation was used between 1925 and the late 1950s in an undetermined number of homes and commercial buildings.

In soil—ore from asbestos mines was stockpiled at the Montana Rail Link Asbestos, CMC Asbestos Gallatin Gateway and CMC Asbestos Bozeman sites, and may be found in area soils where it was disposed of or used as fill material. The sites were cleaned up or are in the process of being cleaned up.

Residents should be aware of the possibility of asbestos ore in gardens, yards or parks.

Hikers should be aware of the possibility of asbestos ore on or near trails.

What does it look like?

Karstolite insulation can appear like dirty cottage cheese, white, khaki, brown or gray fibrous material, and/or fine powder.

Asbestos ore may look like fibrous rocks, petrified wood, shiny chunks and/or fiber bundles. This ore is primarily white, but may also be brown, gray or green.

What to do if you find it?

If you believe the insulation in your home or business may contain asbestos avoid disturbing the material.

If you think you have found raw asbestos ore in soils, do **not** disturb or transport the soil.

Contact the DEQ or your local health department for instructions about proper and safe handling.

Accurate recognition, reporting and handling of materials that potentially contain asbestos are the best ways to prevent exposure and related health consequences.

If you would like to collect a sample or have your home or business inspected for asbestos, a list of labs and inspectors/consultants can be found online at: www.Karstolite.mt.gov



Asbestos ore from the Karst Mine