

Edwin Forrest School: Asbestos Hazard Report

The Philadelphia Regional Center for Children's Environmental Health has partnered with the Healthy Schools Initiative to analyze and report on public information regarding asbestos conditions in schools made available on the School District of Philadelphia's website.

This report is meant to communicate to parents, teachers, and staff the exposure risk at their school and help prioritize the removal of asbestos in high-risk exposure locations.

Our analysis is based on publicly available reports. We have not conducted inspections or verified the reports.

Key Findings:

- 38 teacher / student occupied spaces have asbestos containing material (ACM)
- 9 spaces contained friable ACM
- ★ 0 spaces had damaged ACM

Our Recommendations:

- The School District is required to regularly monitor the condition of their ACM by the EPA. As of the most recent report from August and September 2024, there is no damaged ACM in both school buildings. We recommend frequent monitoring of asbestos containing paint in several areas and the one section of pipe insulation in the main building as listed in Table 1 of this report.



What is asbestos?

Asbestos is a fibrous material that is resistant to heat, water, and corrosion.

See this link for a comprehensive list: <https://prcceh.upenn.edu/asbestos>

Asbestos was used in materials in schools, including:

- Ceiling Tiles
- Floor Tiles
- Pipe Insulation
- Cement
- Paint and Caulk
- Soundproofing
- Fireproofing
- Plaster Materials

What are the health effects of asbestos?

No immediate health impacts are expected from asbestos exposure in schools. However, breathing asbestos fibers in schools may increase the risk of developing cancer many years from now.

Children are very active, breathing more air while running and playing. Children take more breaths per minute than adults and are lower to the ground where asbestos fibers may settle. This puts them at an increased risk for asbestos exposure.

How are damaged asbestos containing materials managed?

Asbestos can be removed. Sometimes damaged materials are managed in place by patching, encapsulating (using a specially formulated paint-like coating) or building an enclosure around damaged and/or accessible materials. All of these are forms of abatement.

The Environmental Protection Agency requires all remaining asbestos containing material to be inspected by the school district every six months. This is documented in an Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act Report (AHERA Report).

Are all asbestos containing materials of equal risk?

Some asbestos containing materials like ceiling and floor tiles have asbestos fibers imbedded in other materials. As long as they are not broken or damaged the asbestos fibers are not released into the air.

Some asbestos containing materials like insulation on pipe remains fibrous and can easily be released in the air when damaged.

Important Terms

Get to know these terms to make the most out of this report.

Damaged Asbestos Containing Material (ACM) can release asbestos fibers into the air.

Friable Materials can be reduced to a powder by applying hand pressure. **DO NOT TOUCH!**

Non-Friable materials are not easily damaged.

Significantly damaged materials are more than 10% damaged.

Abated ACM means repaired, removed, or reduced risk of exposure.

Detailed Review for Edwin Forrest School

This school has 53 spaces with asbestos containing materials. 38 of them are in teacher / student occupied spaces. The School District last inspected ACM in the main school building in August 2024 and published the AHERA report in September 2024. For the Forrest Primary Education Center, the School District last inspected ACM in June 2024 and published the AHERA report in August 2024. No damaged ACM were reported on these AHERA reports.



We recommend that the school district continue to frequently monitor friable asbestos containing materials for damage. The only friable material found in the most recent report was asbestos paint in several areas throughout the school and one section of pipe insulation in the storage crawl space of classroom 001 (see table 1).

Information Reviewed to Make this Report:

The 2024/25 AHERA report from the School District of Philadelphia was reviewed.

To see the most current information, scan these QR Codes. After scanning, search for your school.

School Districts of Philadelphia Asbestos Reports:



AHERA Reports are documents generated from EPA required asbestos inspections



Report what you see!

Parents and teachers should report hazardous conditions in schools on the Healthy Schools app.

Scan here to download the app:



Disclaimer:

This report analyzes custodial and mechanical spaces like boiler rooms **only** when ACM is significantly damaged (damage > 10%).

Questions?

Find more resources on our website!

prcch.upenn.edu/asbestos

- Photo gallery of different types of damaged asbestos containing materials
- Guide to how we classify materials in schools
- Our analysis and reporting methodology
- What we do with the information in this report



Email us at prcch@penmedicine.upenn.edu or call 215-573-9076

Table 1: Friable Asbestos Containing Materials Identified in the Forrest Elementary School Main Building

NOTE: Friable materials can be reduced to a powder by applying hand pressure. *Do not touch it!* Damaged and significantly damaged friable materials readily release harmful asbestos fibers into the air.

Location	Friable Asbestos Containing Material	Reported as Damaged or Significantly Damaged? (Blank = No)
Office 102 Closet by Entrance	Paint associated with Ductwork, Exterior	
Classroom 103 Coat Closet	Paint associated with Ductwork, Exterior	
Classroom 110 Coat Closet	Paint associated with Ductwork, Exterior	
Classroom 112 Coat Closet	Paint associated with Ductwork, Exterior	
Principal's Office Closet	Paint associated with Ductwork, Exterior	
Classroom 202 Coat Closet	Paint associated with Ductwork, Exterior	
Classroom 204 Coat Closet	Paint associated with Ductwork, Exterior	
Classroom 210 Coat Closet	Paint associated with Ductwork, Exterior	
Classroom 212 Coat Closet	Paint associated with Ductwork, Exterior	
Building Exterior	Paint associated with Door, Metal	
Roof	Paint associated with Wall, Perimeter	
Roof	Paint associated with Unit Ventilator	
Classroom 001 Storage - Crawlspace	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch	

Table 2: Non-Friable Asbestos Containing Materials Identified in the Forrest Elementary School Main Building

NOTE: Significantly Damaged non-friable materials (damage \geq 10% of the material) can release harmful asbestos fibers into the air.

Location	Material Name	Reported as Damaged or Significantly Damaged?
103A Electrical/Telecom Room	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Main Office Closet - Pipe Shaft	Fire Doors	
Fire Tower B across from Classroom 108	Caulk associated with Doorjamb, Metal	
Fire Tower B across from Classroom 108	Fire Doors	
Classroom 300 Closet	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Main Attic	Vapor Barrier	
Classroom G10	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom G11	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom G11 Closet	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom G12	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom G12 Closet	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Small Closet Outside of Classroom G12	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
G11A Electrical/Telecom Room	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
G1 Kitchen Area	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
G1 Kitchen Area Office	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Gymateria Office	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Middle Storage Room	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Gymateria Storage Room on Boiler Room side	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Gymateria Storage Room next to Hall to Courtyard	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Custodial Restroom in Stairwell near Boy's Restroom	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Custodial Restroom in Stairwell near Boy's Restroom	Vapor Barrier associated with Asphalt Material	
G3A Custodial Closet near G3 Seryery	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Hallway between Seryery and Gymateria	Glue Dots associated with Ceiling Tile 1' x 1'	
Hallway in Gymateria to Courtyard	Caulk associated with Doorjamb, Metal	
Classroom G2	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom G2	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom G2 - Right Corner Closet	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom G2 - Coat Closet at Entrance	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
G12A Custodial Closet (near Boy's Restroom)	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Vestibule to Classrooms G10 and G11	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	

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Building Exterior	Caulk associated with Fan, Intake Chamber	
Building Exterior	Caulk associated with Door Frame, Metal	
Roof	Tar associated with Wall, Perimeter	
Roof	Tar associated with Wall, Brick	
109 Auditorium	Caulk associated with Window, Interior	
Classroom 001	Caulk associated with Window Component	
Exterior of Portable	Caulk associated with Window Component	
103A Electrical/Telecom Room	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Main Office Closet - Pipe Shaft	Fire Doors	
Fire Tower B across from Classroom 108	Caulk associated with Doorjamb, Metal	
Fire Tower B across from Classroom 108	Fire Doors	
Classroom 300 Closet	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Main Attic	Vapor Barrier	
Classroom G10	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom G11	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom G11 Closet	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom G12	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom G12 Closet	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Small Closet Outside of Classroom G12	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
G11A Electrical/Telecom Room	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
G1 Kitchen Area	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
G1 Kitchen Area Office	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Gymateria Office	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Middle Storage Room	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Gymateria Storage Room on Boiler Room side	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Gymateria Storage Room next to Hall to Courtyard	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Custodial Restroom in Stairwell near Boy's Restroom	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Custodial Restroom in Stairwell near Boy's Restroom	Vapor Barrier associated with Asphalt Material	
G3A Custodial Closet near G3 Seryery	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Hallway between Seryery and Gymateria	Glue Dots associated with Ceiling Tile 1' x 1'	
Hallway in Gymateria to Courtyard	Caulk associated with Doorjamb, Metal	
Classroom G2	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom G2	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom G2 - Right Corner Closet	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom G2 - Coat Closet at Entrance	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
G12A Custodial Closet (near Boy's Restroom)	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Vestibule to Classrooms G10 and G11	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Building Exterior	Caulk associated with Fan, Intake Chamber	
Building Exterior	Caulk associated with Door Frame, Metal	
Roof	Tar associated with Wall, Perimeter	
Roof	Tar associated with Wall, Brick	
109 Auditorium	Caulk associated with Window, Interior	
Classroom 001	Caulk associated with Window Component	

Exterior of Portable	Caulk associated with Window Component	
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Table 3: Non-Friable Asbestos Containing Materials Identified in the Forrest Primary Education Center

NOTE: Significantly Damaged non-friable materials (damage \geq 10% of the material) can release harmful asbestos fibers into the air.

Location	Material Name	Damaged or Significantly Damaged?
Faculty Lounge/Dining	Sink Undercoat Mastic associated with Sink	
Faculty Lounge/Dining	Mastic associated with Cove Base	
Right Side Office in the Main Office (next to Storage Room)	Mastic associated with Cove Base	
Classroom P1	Sink Undercoat Mastic associated with Sink	
Classroom P1	Mastic associated with Cove Base	
Classroom P1	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom P10	Mastic associated with Cove Base	
Classroom P11	Mastic associated with Cove Base	
Classroom P12	Mastic associated with Cove Base	
Classroom P13	Mastic associated with Cove Base	
Classroom P1 Lockers/Storage Area	Mastic associated with Cove Base	
Classroom P2	Sink Undercoat Mastic associated with Sink	
Classroom P2	Mastic associated with Cove Base	
Classroom P2	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom P2 Lockers/Storage Area	Mastic associated with Cove Base	
Classroom P3	Sink Undercoat Mastic associated with Sink	
Classroom P3	Mastic associated with Cove Base	
Classroom P3	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom P3 Lockers/Storage Area	Mastic associated with Cove Base	
Classroom P4	Sink Undercoat Mastic associated with Sink	
Classroom P4	Mastic associated with Cove Base	
Classroom P4	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom P4 Lockers/Storage Area	Mastic associated with Cove Base	
Classroom P5	Sink Undercoat Mastic associated with Sink	
Classroom P5	Mastic associated with Cove Base	
Classroom P5	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom P5 Lockers/Storage Area	Mastic associated with Cove Base	
Classroom P6	Sink Undercoat Mastic associated with Sink	
Classroom P6	Mastic associated with Cove Base	
Classroom P7	Mastic associated with Cove Base	
Classroom P7	Sink Undercoat Mastic associated with Sink	
Classroom P8	Mastic associated with Cove Base	

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Classroom P9	Sink Undercoat Mastic associated with Sink	
Classroom P9	Mastic associated with Cove Base	
Faculty Lounge/Dining	Sink Undercoat Mastic associated with Sink	
Faculty Lounge/Dining	Mastic associated with Cove Base	
Right Side Office in the Main Office (next to Storage Room)	Mastic associated with Cove Base	
Classroom P1	Sink Undercoat Mastic associated with Sink	
Classroom P1	Mastic associated with Cove Base	
Classroom P1	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom P10	Mastic associated with Cove Base	
Classroom P11	Mastic associated with Cove Base	
Classroom P12	Mastic associated with Cove Base	
Classroom P13	Mastic associated with Cove Base	
Classroom P1 Lockers/Storage Area	Mastic associated with Cove Base	
Classroom P2	Sink Undercoat Mastic associated with Sink	
Classroom P2	Mastic associated with Cove Base	
Classroom P2	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom P2 Lockers/Storage Area	Mastic associated with Cove Base	
Classroom P3	Sink Undercoat Mastic associated with Sink	
Classroom P3	Mastic associated with Cove Base	
Classroom P3	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom P3 Lockers/Storage Area	Mastic associated with Cove Base	
Classroom P4	Sink Undercoat Mastic associated with Sink	
Classroom P4	Mastic associated with Cove Base	
Classroom P4	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom P4 Lockers/Storage Area	Mastic associated with Cove Base	
Classroom P5	Sink Undercoat Mastic associated with Sink	
Classroom P5	Mastic associated with Cove Base	
Classroom P5	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom P5 Lockers/Storage Area	Mastic associated with Cove Base	
Classroom P6	Sink Undercoat Mastic associated with Sink	
Classroom P6	Mastic associated with Cove Base	
Classroom P7	Mastic associated with Cove Base	
Classroom P7	Sink Undercoat Mastic associated with Sink	
Classroom P8	Mastic associated with Cove Base	
Classroom P9	Sink Undercoat Mastic associated with Sink	
Classroom P9	Mastic associated with Cove Base	
Classroom P4	Mastic associated with Cove Base	
Classroom P4	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom P4 Lockers/Storage Area	Mastic associated with Cove Base	
Classroom P5	Sink Undercoat Mastic associated with Sink	
Classroom P5	Mastic associated with Cove Base	
Classroom P5	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom P5 Lockers/Storage Area	Mastic associated with Cove Base	
Classroom P6	Sink Undercoat Mastic associated with Sink	
Classroom P6	Mastic associated with Cove Base	
Classroom P7	Mastic associated with Cove Base	

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Classroom P7	Sink Undercoat Mastic associated with Sink	
Classroom P8	Mastic associated with Cove Base	
Classroom P9	Sink Undercoat Mastic associated with Sink	
Classroom P9	Mastic associated with Cove Base	