

Joseph H. Brown Elementary 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:

- 41 teacher / student occupied spaces have **asbestos containing material (ACM)**
- 1 space 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 2024, there is no damaged ACM in the school. We recommend frequent monitoring of all ACM, especially asbestos containing paint on the roof which if damaged is considered friable as listed in Table 1 of this report. Teachers, staff, and parents should report any damaged ACM to their principal immediately.



A Program of:





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 EXAMPLE School

This school has 53 spaces with asbestos containing materials. 41 of them are in teacher / student occupied spaces. The School District last inspected ACM in June 2024 and published the AHERA report in August 2024. No damaged ACM were reported on this AHERA report.



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 containing paint on the roof (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.



Report what you see!

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

School Districts of Philadelphia Asbestos Reports:



AHERA Reports are documents generated from EPA required asbestos inspections

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!

prcceb.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 prcceb@penmedicine.upenn.edu or call 215-573-9076

Table 1: Friable Asbestos Containing Materials Identified

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)
Main Roof	Paint associated with Louver	

Table 2: Non-Friable Asbestos Containing Materials Identified

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?
Auditorium	Fire Doors	
Main Office	Mastic associated with Floor Tile	
Classroom 101	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 101	Partition Room Dividers	

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Classroom 102	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 102	Partition Room Dividers	
Classroom 103	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 103	Partition Room Dividers	
Classroom 104	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 105A	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 106	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 106 Closet on Hallway Side	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom 106 Closet on Restroom side	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom 107	Mastic associated with Floor Tile	
Classroom 107 Closet on Restroom side	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom 107 Closet on Hallway Side	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom 108	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Stairwell across from Classroom 101	Fire Doors	
Stairwell between Classrooms 103 and 104	Fire Doors	
Stairwell between Classrooms 107 and 108	Fire Doors	
Classroom 201	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 201	Partition Room Dividers	
Classroom 202	Partition Room Dividers	
Classroom 203	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 203	Partition Room Dividers	
Classroom 204	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 205	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 206A	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 207	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 208	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 209	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 210	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 211	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Staff Lunch Room 200 Kitchen	Sink Undercoat Mastic	
Classroom 301	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 302	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 302	Partition Room Dividers	
Classroom 303	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 303	Partition Room Dividers	
Classroom 304	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 305	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 306	Sink Undercoat Mastic	
Classroom 306	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 306A	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 306 Closet on windows side	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom 306 Closet on Hallway side	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom 307	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Office 308	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Hallway from Classroom 300 to 308	Fire Doors	
Hallway from Classroom 301 to 304	Fire Doors	

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Attic above Auditorium	Tar associated with Wall, Interior	
Attic above Auditorium	Vapor Barrier	
Attic- Third Floor Stairwell	Tar associated with Wall, Interior	
Attic- Third Floor Stairwell	Vapor Barrier	
Auditorium Fan Room	Fire Doors	
Building Engineer's Storage Room	Fire Doors	
Custodial Closet	Fire Doors	
Generator Room	Fire Doors	
Girl's Restroom adjacent to Gym	Fire Doors	
Gymnasium	Fire Doors	
Gymnasium Office	Fire Doors	
Boiler Room Storage Room	Fire Doors	
Boiler Room	Fire Doors	
Storage Room/Crawlspace under Auditorium	Fire Doors	
Classroom 7	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 7	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Electrical Room	Transite associated with Electrical Panel	
Electrical Room	Fire Doors	
Cafeteria	Fire Doors	
Attic- Third Floor Stairwell	Cork Pipe Insulation	
Exterior Building	Caulk	
Main Roof	Caulk associated with Unit Ventilator, Exterior	
Main Roof	Caulk associated with Louver	