

Rudolph Blankenburg 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:

- 40 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 October 2024, there is no damaged ACM in the school. We recommend frequent monitoring of all ACM, especially heat and pipe insulation 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.



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 Rudolph Blankenburg School

This school has 43 spaces with asbestos containing materials. 40 of them are in teacher / student occupied spaces. The School District last inspected ACM in September 2024 and published the AHERA report in October 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 were heat shield insulation and pipe insulation in several areas throughout the school (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!

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)
Stairwell near Classroom 105	Heat Shield Insulation associated with Radiator	
Stairwell G (near Girl's Restroom)	Heat Shield Insulation associated with Radiator	
S.E.L Office	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch	
Classroom 319 Closet	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch	
Classroom 325 Closet	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch	
Classroom 325 Closet	Pipe Fitting Insulation	
Classroom 327	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch	
Rear Boiler Room Exit Stairwell	Pipe Insulation 2-6 inch	
Rear Boiler Room Exit Stairwell	Pipe Fitting Insulation	

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?
Classroom 101	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom K1	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom K1	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom K1 Air Shaft 1	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom K1 Air Shaft 1	Mortar associated with Wall, Brick	
Classroom K1 Teacher's Closet (in front of room)	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom 102	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Principal's Office	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Principal's Restroom	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom 103	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom K4	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom K4	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom K4 Air Shaft 1	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom K4 Air Shaft 1	Mortar associated with Wall, Brick	
Classroom K4 Closet	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom 105	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 105 Air Shaft 1	Mortar associated with Wall, Brick	
Classroom 106	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 106 Air Shaft 1	Mortar associated with Wall, Brick	
Classroom 107	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 107 Air Shaft 1	Mortar associated with Wall, Brick	
Upper Terrace Area in rear parking lot above the boiler room and fan room	Expansion Seam Caulking	
Classroom 208	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 208 Air Shaft 1	Mortar associated with Wall, Brick	
Classroom 209 Air Shaft 1	Mortar associated with Wall, Brick	
Teacher's Kitchen (for Lounge)	Sink Undercoat Mastic	
Classroom 210	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 210 Air Shaft 1	Mortar associated with Wall, Brick	
Classroom 211	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 211 Air Shaft 1	Mortar associated with Wall, Brick	
Classroom 212	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 212 Air Shaft 1	Mortar associated with Wall, Brick	
Classroom 213	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 213 Air Shaft 1	Mortar associated with Wall, Brick	
Classroom 214	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 214 Air Shaft 1	Mortar associated with Wall, Brick	

Rudolph Blankenburg School: Asbestos Hazard Report

Counselor's Office 215	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Counselor's Office 215 Air Shaft 1	Mortar associated with Wall, Brick	
S.E.L Office	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 317	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 317 Air Shaft 1	Mortar associated with Wall, Brick	
Classroom 318	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 318 Air Shaft 1	Mortar associated with Wall, Brick	
Classroom 319	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 319 Air Shaft 1	Mortar associated with Wall, Brick	
Classroom 320	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 321	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 321 Air Shaft 1	Mortar associated with Wall, Brick	
Classroom 322	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 322 Air Shaft 1	Mortar associated with Wall, Brick	
Classroom 323	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 323 Air Shaft 1	Mortar associated with Wall, Brick	
Classroom 324	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 324 Air Shaft 1	Mortar associated with Wall, Brick	
Classroom 325	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 325 Air Shaft 1	Mortar associated with Wall, Brick	
Classroom 326	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 326 Air Shaft 1	Mortar associated with Wall, Brick	
Classroom 327	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 327 Air Shaft 1	Mortar associated with Wall, Brick	
Classroom 328	Glue Dots associated with Blackboard	
Classroom 328 Air Shaft 1	Mortar associated with Wall, Brick	
Fan Room	Gasket associated with Door, Air Wash	
Cafeteria Serving Area	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom 30	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom 30 Closet #2	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Classroom 30 Closet #1	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Kitchen Office	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Gymnasium	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Gymnasium	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Cafeteria	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Cafeteria Air Shaft 1	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Cafeteria Air Shaft 1	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Cafeteria Air Shaft 1	Mortar associated with Wall, Brick	
IMC (Library)	Mastic associated with Floor Tile	
IMC Classroom 31	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	