

Thurgood Marshall 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:

- 18 teacher / student occupied spaces have **asbestos containing material (ACM)**
- 4 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 May 2024, there is no damaged ACM in the school. We recommend frequent monitoring of all ACM, especially asbestos containing paint 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 Thurgood Marshall School

This school has 24 spaces with asbestos containing materials. 18 of them are in teacher / student occupied spaces. The School District last inspected ACM in November 2023 and published the AHERA report in May 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 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!

- 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

prcceb.upenn.edu/asbestos



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)
Maintenance Storage Room next to Loading Dock	Paint associated with Ceiling, Metal	
Caged Storage Area on Loading Dock	Paint associated with Ceiling, Metal	
Equipment Storage Garage	Paint associated with Ceiling, Metal	
Maintenance Area Loading Dock	Paint associated with Ceiling, Metal	

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 100 (Kindergarten)	Sink Undercoat Mastic	
Classroom 101 (Kindergarten)	Sink Undercoat Mastic	
Classroom 102 (Kindergarten)	Sink Undercoat Mastic	
Classroom 103 (Special Education)	Sink Undercoat Mastic	
Nurse's Office Exam Room	Sink Undercoat Mastic	
Nurse's Office Storage	Sink Undercoat Mastic	
MDF Server Room	Fire Stop	
MDF Server Room	Floor Tile VAT 12" x 12"	
Family Management Room 109 (Special Education)	Sink Undercoat Mastic	
Main Office Kitchenette across from Office 113D	Sink Undercoat Mastic	
Classroom 200	Sink Undercoat Mastic	
Classroom 201	Sink Undercoat Mastic	
Classroom 202	Sink Undercoat Mastic	
Classroom 203	Sink Undercoat Mastic	
IMC Office 206C	Sink Undercoat Mastic	
Staff Lounge	Sink Undercoat Mastic	
Classroom 300	Sink Undercoat Mastic	
Classroom 301	Sink Undercoat Mastic	
Classroom 302	Sink Undercoat Mastic	
Classroom 303	Sink Undercoat Mastic	
Classroom 304	Sink Undercoat Mastic	
Classroom 304 Storage Room 304A	Sink Undercoat Mastic	