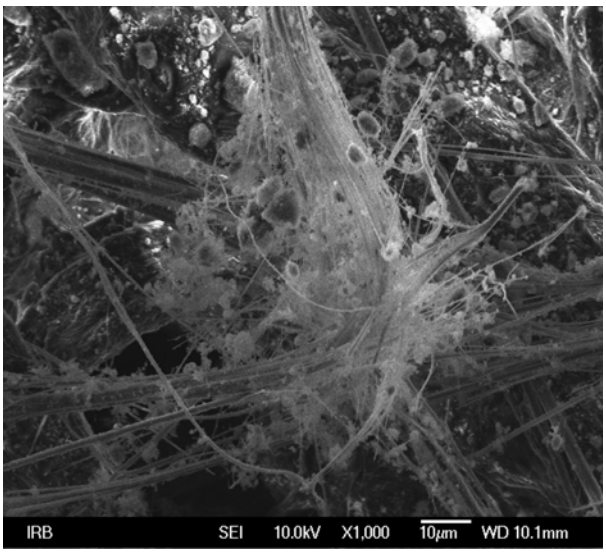
EFFICIENT PROTECTION AGAINST THE HARMUFUL EFFECTS OF ASBESTOS

Several decades ago, knowledge of the harmful and hazardous effects of asbestos fibres on the respiratory and digestive systems led to the development of processes aimed at protection against asbestos particles and at eliminating from everyday use materials containing asbestos. Efficient and permanent protection from the emission of asbestos particles into the air is provided by applying special coatings, such as easy-on Asbestos Sealer.



Picture 1
Asbestos fibres – the cause of dangerous diseases

Picture 2
Asbestos panels on the façade of the Clinic for Lung Diseases, Jordanovac, Zagreb

Asbestos became popular in the middle of the 20th century on account of its numerous features. A natural mineral, resistant to chemicals and heat, it found its place in products for protection against heat, noise, abrasion, and as an electric and thermal insulator. It is found throughout the construction industry (floors, walls, heat isolation, waterworks and sewage pipes, etc.). It is also used in the automotive industry (for the friction surfaces of clutches and brakes) in ships, power plants, refineries, indeed everywhere. Five thousand types of products containing asbestos have been found in the USA. Fortunately, today there is a range of materials that can replace it, although it is still present all around us.

Its special features are due to its very thin and strong fibres, 1,200 times thinner than a human hair. This allows it to pass through the natural filter system of the human body and settle permanently in the windpipe, lungs or intestines (Picture 1). Since our bodies have no chemicals to decompose this mineral, and cannot expel the fibres stuck in the tissue, certain activities start in the cells, which, after a number of years, can cause a variety of diseases.

Asbestos fibres stuck in the alveolar ducts and capillary membranes irritate cells and can cause lung, breast or stomach cancer (mesothelioma), laryngeal cancer and tracheal cancer. After long exposure, the fibres reduce lung capacity and, ultimately, can causes asbestosis, an incurable disease of the alveolar tissue.

It is therefore crucial to prevent the emission of asbestos fibres into the environment. The highest concentration of these fibres can be found in the environment of asbestos production plants and around large areas of asbestos cladding and in products that have been exposed to atmospheric conditions. Since asbestos products are mainly based on compounds of asbestos fibres and cement, their surface is sensitive to atmospheric influences and low temperatures. When the surface of such a product is eroded, the fibres separate from the base and are borne in the air by the wind. The only reliable way to prevent this is with **easy-on Asbestos Sealer** coating, which is resistant to atmospheric conditions, UV radiation, abrasion, chemicals, and fire. It is completely neutral and safe for the environment and, most importantly, lasts for over **20 years**.

Picture 3
... of the Primary School in the Zagreb district of Ravnice...

Picture 4
... and on the roof of the shipyard in Punat on the island of Krk

Picture 5
After a number of years of use and with the plaster falling off these high-rise buildings in Rijeka, the asbestos insulation has become exposed

Today we are aware of what was not known 50 years ago, but in spite of this, not enough is being done and not in time! The costs that society will have to bear to treat those who have become ill will by far surpass the reparation costs of asbestos products. In addition, we should not threaten the health of our children.

In the financial crisis, which is putting into doubt the financing of new façades and roofs, the least we can do is to provide protection against the emission of asbestos particles into the air. One of the reliable, affordable and permanent solutions for this problem is to apply special coatings, such as easy-on Asbestos sealer (Picture 6). This product of the British company Urban Hygiene Ltd has been used for several decades throughout the world. It is a coating resistant to atmospheric influences, ultraviolet radiation, friction and various chemicals, but since it has an extremely weak surface adhesion force, it does not allow dirt, mould, moss, and other damaging substances to attach to the outside of the material. It creates a permanent film on the eroded surface which binds asbestos particles and prevents further erosion and the emission of asbestos fibres into the

environment. It is completely neutral, environmentally safe, easy to clean and wash, and, what is most important, it lasts for over 20 years. The tests conducted by the Laboratory for Thermal Measurements (LTM) at the Ruđer Bošković Institute confirm its asbestos protection qualities.

Production plants, asbestos products, façades, roofs, cladding and pipes exposed to atmospheric influences, and other sources of asbestos particles must be protected to prevent the release of asbestos fibres into the environment. One of the efficient, permanent and economical solutions for the prevention of and protection against the harmful effects of asbestos is easy-on Asbestos Sealer permanent coating, which is easily applied with a brush, roller or by spraying.

Picture 6 easy-on Asbestos sealer

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