

### *Would you use Asbestos to clean up spills?*

Crystalline silica (*i.e. free silica*) is a known carcinogen to humans with health effects comparable to that of asbestos, also a known carcinogen.

Crystalline silica is found in most clay based absorbents (*i.e. cat litter*) as well as other absorbent products.

Eco-Absorb is comprised of naturally occurring earth minerals, which are non-carcinogenic.

#### **Crystalline Silica**

##### *What is it?*

Crystalline silica is a basic component of soil, sand, granite, and many other minerals. Crystalline Silica may become respirable when workers chip, cut, drill, or grind objects that contain crystalline silica (*i.e. spreading out clay absorbents similar to cat litter*).

##### *Hazards and health effects:*

- **Silicosis** (scar tissue in the lungs)
- **Cancer**
- **Scleroderma**
- **Tuberculosis**
- **IARC Group 1: Carcinogenic to humans**

#### **Asbestos**

##### *What is it?*

Asbestos is the name given to a group of naturally occurring minerals used in certain products to resist heat and corrosion. Asbestos fibers are respirable and may be inhaled when working with asbestos.

##### *Hazards and health effects:*

- **Asbestosis** (scar tissue in the lungs)
- **Cancer**
- **Mesothelioma**
- **Bronchogenic Carcinoma**
- **IARC Group 1: Carcinogenic to humans**

#### **Eco-Absorb**

##### *What is it?*

Eco-Absorb is comprised of naturally occurring earth minerals, which are characterized by many spherical and convoluted cracks.

##### *Hazards and health effects:*

- **No risk of silicosis**
- **No adverse respiratory effects**
- **Meets FDA standards**
- **IARC Group 4: Not carcinogenic to humans**

The most widely used system for classifying carcinogens comes from the IARC, which is part of the World Health Organization (WHO). In the past 30 years, the IARC has evaluated the cancer-causing potential of about 900 likely candidates, placing them into one of the following groups:

- Group 1: Carcinogenic to humans
- Group 2A: Probably carcinogenic to humans
- Group 2B: Possibly carcinogenic to humans
- Group 3: Unclassifiable as to carcinogenicity in humans
- Group 4: Not carcinogenic to humans

References include the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), Dr. Hans Weill of Tulane University (1994 study), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the Journal of Occupational Medicine.



1190 N. Del Rio Place, Ontario, CA 91764  
Ph: 800-794-2345 • Fax: 909-484-4214  
<http://www.eco-absorb.com>