

Cancer in the Workplace

There are three obvious sources of potential carcinogens (cancer causing agents) in the roofing workplace: 1) the sun, 2) the air, 3) the chemicals in the roofing materials.

We all know that too much solar exposure can cause skin cancer. The solution is to wear a hat when working on roofs and use sun block on exposed areas, particularly on the face.

We can also breathe carcinogenic materials while working. Over the past century, millions of people have unknowingly been exposed to asbestos, a class of fibrous minerals known to cause a variety of cancers. Mesothelioma is a rare form of cancer caused almost exclusively by asbestos exposure. Some old roof felts are known to contain asbestos, so when tearing apart old slate roofs, wear breathing protection. More about asbestos and cancer can be found at SlateRoofCentral.com/links.html.

We are unknowingly exposed to other carcinogenic chemicals because they're contained in the roofing materials that we handle. For example, according to a popular self-adhering underlayment manufacturer's Material Safety Data Sheets (excerpted below), the material contains 10-25% "heavy paraffinic distillate solvent extract," a substance rated as a Group 1 carcinogen (a known human carcinogen) by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). The IARC is part of the World Health Organization and its mission is to coordinate and conduct research on the causes of human cancer, the mechanisms of carcinogenesis, and to develop scientific strategies for cancer prevention and control.

Download a full copy of the Grace IWS MSDS at:
http://www.na.graceconstruction.com/underlayments/download/Waterproofing%20Membrane%20M-85804%20_q__2.pdf

W. R. GRACE MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET		
Product Name: Waterproofing Membrane MSDS ID Number: M-85804 MSDS Date: 04/18/2008		
SECTION 1 - CHEMICAL PRODUCT AND COMPANY IDENTIFICATION		
Product Name:	Waterproofing Membrane	
MSDS Number:	M-85804	
Cancelled MSDS Number:	M-85787	
MSDS Date:	04/18/2008	
Chemical Family Name:	Rubberized Asphalt Adhesive Sheet with Film and/or Mesh Comprising Various Components.	
Product Use:	Waterproofing Membrane.	
Manufactured by:	W.R. Grace & Co.-Conn. 62 Whittemore Avenue Cambridge, MA 02140	
	Grace Canada, Inc. 294 Clements Road West Ajax, Ontario L1S 3C6	
In Case of Emergency Call: In USA: (617) 876-1400 In Canada: (905) 683-8561		
SECTION 2 - COMPOSITION/INFORMATION ON INGREDIENTS		
Ingredient	CAS#	Percent (max)
Heavy Paraffinic Distillate Solvent Extract	064742-04-7	10-25
Petroleum Asphalt	008062-42-4	50-100
Styrene-Butadiene block copolymer	009003-55-8	10-25
SECTION 3 - HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION		
Emergency Overview:		
Warning! Eye contact with rubberized asphalt residue on hands can cause irritation. Skin contact with rubberized asphalt can cause irritation. May be harmful if ingested. May be harmful if absorbed through skin. May cause teratogenic effects. May produce local skin tumors. Removal of release liner may generate a static electrical discharge (spark). Release liners are slippery. Remove from work area immediately.		
State Regulatory Information:		
California Proposition 65: This product contains substances known to the state of California to cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm.		
Chemical Name	CAS#	Wt %
Heavy Paraffinic Distillate Solvent Extract	064742-04-7	21
SECTION 16 - OTHER INFORMATION		
BITUTHENE® LOW TEMPERATURE WATERPROOFING MEMBRANE, MEMBRANE STRIPS BITUTHENE® SYSTEM 4000 WATERPROOFING MEMBRANE, MEMBRANE STRIPS PERM-A-BARRIER® WALL FLASHING, PERM-A-BARRIER® WALL MEMBRANE, PERM-A-BARRIER® LOW TEMPERATURE MEMBRANE, PERM-A-BARRIER DETAIL MEMBRANE, GRACE ICE & WATER SHIELD®, GRACE ROOF DETAIL MEMBRANE, PITTWRAP CW, GRACE® SELECT, VYCOR® V40 WEATHER BARRIER STRIPS, GRACE VYCOR® PLUS TAPES, GRACE® BASK™, GRACE VYCOR DECK PROTECT GRACE VYCOR ALL PURPOSE FLASHING, GRACE VYCOR ALUMINUM FLASHING, PREPRUF SCS DETAIL TAPE		

Chris E. Drialo, Deceased

DRIALO, Chris E. On April 10, 2010 of Marlton, NJ after a five year courageous battle with cancer. Age 50 years. Beloved husband of Stacy (nee Clouser). Devoted son of Joseph "Skip" and Janet (nee Pforr) of Atco. Loving son-in-law of Maria Clouser of Sicklerville and the late Thomas. Dear brother of Janet McArdle (Michael), Judi Orem (John), Jon Drialo (Donna), and Skip Drialo. Brother-in-law of Sean Clouser (Katrina). Chris will be sadly missed by "The Girls." Also survived by many loving nieces and nephews. Chris and Stacy had been married for ten years; **he was a self employed roofing contractor and Charter Member of the Slate Roofing Contractors Association of North America, Inc.** The family received relatives and friends at the St. Anthony R. C Church, 436 Pennington Ave., Waterford, NJ 08089. Memorial Mass was celebrated at 10:00 AM. Cremation and interment were held privately. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Chris' memory to the American Cancer Society, 1851 Old Cuthbert Rd., Cherry Hill, NJ 08034. Arrangements under the direction of the Costantino Funeral Home 231 W. White Horse Pike, Berlin, NJ 08009. For information or to email lasting condolences please use our web site: CostantinoFH.com.

BUYING AND MAINTAINING A HOME WITH A SLATE ROOF —

A Guide to Inspections, Contractors and Repairs for Homeowners and Property Managers, by David Robinson

2007, ISBN 978-1438246208

Perhaps the most recent book about slate roofing to be published in the United States, David Robinson's new 6"x9" handbook for property owners and managers includes 95 pages of



information, along with a selection of

black and white photos and drawings. Contents include: Introduction, 1) Background, 2) Quarrying, 3) Buying a Home with a Slate Roof, 4) Looking for Trouble, 5) Two Important Roof Components, 6) Repairs, 7) Slate and Flashing Repairs, 8) When to Replace?, and Appendices, including an inspection checklist, a glossary, list of books and periodicals, internet resources, "where to find specifications," history, and quarriers and brokers.

Excerpt: "So you spot your dream home and it is for sale. Whether it is an old farmhouse in the country, or a painted lady situated in a quiet neighborhood, it looks like a great old house, but the roof is slate and you have heard that slate roofs last forever. Are you about to buy a house with a slate roof that is going to last a hundred years or five years?" Contact: slaterepair@gmail.com