HEALTH FACTS

- All forms of asbestos fibers can cause cancer and are classified as known human carcinogens.
- Any exposure to a carcinogenic compound involves some risk; therefore, no “safe” exposure level has been established for asbestos. No one knows how many fibers are needed to cause cancer or other lung disease.
- Asbestos fibers can be inhaled and remain in the lung or travel to the lining of the lungs and abdominal cavity.
- Diseases caused by asbestos may not be observed for twenty or more years. The risk of disease depends upon the intensity and duration of exposure.
- Serious diseases that can occur when someone inhales air that contains asbestos fibers include:
  - Asbestosis: A non-cancerous lung disease which causes scarring of the lungs;
  - Mesothelioma: A rare cancer of the thin membranes lining the lungs, chest, and abdominal cavity; and
  - Lung Cancer (smoking significantly increases the risk of lung cancer if one is exposed to asbestos).

For more information on the health effects of asbestos see:
http://www.oehha.ca.gov

WHAT TO LOOK FOR...

Asbestos is a term used for several naturally-occurring fibrous minerals. Asbestos most commonly occurs in ultramafic rock that has undergone partial or complete alteration to serpentine rock, and often contains chrysotile asbestos. Another form of asbestos, tremolite, can be found associated with ultramafic rock, particularly near faults.

Asbestos fibers are released from rock when it is crushed or broken and through natural weathering processes. The fibers are tiny and may be invisible to the naked eye. Since this rock may be present in the soils around your home, or may have been used in the past on your driveway or walkway, there is a potential for asbestos exposures where you live. This could happen through routine activities that crush asbestos-containing rock or create dust in soils that contain asbestos fibers. Some examples of these activities are:

- Driving over areas surfaced with ultramafic or serpentine rock;
- Rototilling, plowing the ground, or using a shovel;
- Riding horses or moving livestock;
- Construction activities, such as pool installation; and
- Using a leaf blower to clean sidewalks.

Once free, asbestos fibers may stay in the soil or remain airborne for a long time.

ASBESTOS-CONTAINING ROCK AND SOIL
—WHAT CALIFORNIA HOMEOWNERS AND RENTERS NEED TO KNOW —

An informational guide for homeowners and renters with naturally-occurring asbestos sources near their homes

In cooperation with Local Air Districts

Cal/EPA
California Air Resources Board Compliance Assistance Program
P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, CA 95812

http://www.arb.ca.gov
The Asbestos ATCM for Surfacing Applications reduces asbestos emissions by prohibiting the use of asbestos-containing rocks and soils for surfacing applications. Surfacing applications include unpaved roads, driveways, pathways, decorative uses, and landscaping.

- Pave over unpaved walkways, driveways, or roadways that may have asbestos-containing rock or soil.
- Cover crushed asbestos-containing rock in gardens and yards with soil or landscaping.
- Pre-wet garden areas prior to disturbing the soil.
- Remove shoes before entering your home to reduce tracking in fibers.
- Keep windows and doors closed on windy days or during construction.
- Reduce vehicle speed on unpaved roads.
- Use a wet rag to dust (as opposed to a feather duster) and use wet mops on non-carpeted floor.
- Use washable area rugs on your floors.

If you are concerned that you may have asbestos-containing rock or soils around your home, or if you are considering purchasing a home in an area where these rocks or soils may be present, you may want to consider contacting a licensed geologist to examine the property. If you are concerned that you may have asbestos in your home, contact a certified analytical laboratory. For a list of consultants and/or laboratories, call the ARB Monitoring & Laboratory Division at (916) 445-9483, or consult the Yellow Pages ® directory under “Laboratories-Analytical.”