

Accessing McGill University's Asbestos Database through the Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) website.

1. From the EHS homepage <https://www.mcgill.ca/ehs/> click on

McGill Asbestos Web Database

The screenshot shows the McGill Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) website. The header includes the McGill logo and the text 'Environmental Health and Safety' with a sub-note 'A member unit of Facilities Management and Ancillary Services'. A navigation bar lists various services. The main content area features a large graphic with the text 'ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY' and a 'Mission' statement. On the right sidebar, there is a 'myLab' section and a 'McGill Asbestos Web Database' link highlighted by a blue callout bubble with the text 'Click Here'.

2. You will be brought to the following page: <https://www.mcgill.ca/ehs/programs-and-services/facilities-safety/asbestos/asbestos-web-database> where you will see the following disclaimer:

Accessing the database can only be accessed through a McGill University IP Address or through [McGill's VPN Network](#).

It should be noted that the results of this survey provide an overview and a statistical representation of locations where asbestos-containing building materials are present. It was not a room-by-room survey thus the absence of sample results for any given location should not be interpreted as meaning there is no asbestos present. **If such is the case more detailed inspections or tests should be performed by a qualified person to determine whether asbestos is present prior to conducting renovation, construction, or maintenance work.**

Once you have read this disclaimer click

Access the database

below

Programs & Services Safety Training Forms & Resources Research & Lab Safety Policies & Safety Committees Contact Us

McGILL/CA / ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY / Programs & Services / Facilities Safety / Asbestos

New PI Orientation

Facilities Safety

Asbestos

Asbestos Awareness

Asbestos Risk Assessment Tree

Asbestos Web Database

Asbestos Log Sheet

Facilities Management & Ancillary Services Safety Manual

LOTO Program

Construction Safety

Workshop Safety

Office Ergonomics

Asbestos Web Database

The McGill University Asbestos Database is used to collect and maintain information about asbestos containing building materials at McGill University's downtown and MacDonald Campus buildings. It includes asbestos-containing building material surveys conducted internally or by external companies. Where applicable pdf documents of complete buildings surveys are available upon request.

The mandate of this asbestos database is to also address a Commission des Normes de l'Équité de la Santé et Sécurité au Travail (CNESST) requirement that focuses on the safe management of asbestos. In 2013 new provisions were designed to reduce the exposure of workers to asbestos dust. In doing so, the Quebec Occupational Health and Safety Regulation and the Quebec Construction Safety Code were modified and the following were included:

1. The location and year of construction of sprayed-on asbestos or asbestos containing materials in the building,
2. The characterization of the building material for the presence of asbestos and evaluate the likelihood of being airborne,
3. Provide corrective measures to prevent asbestos containing materials to degrade over time, finally
4. Maintain an asbestos registry and make it available for consultation.

Disclaimer

Accessing the database can only be accessed through a McGill University IP Address or through [McGill's VPN Network](#).

It should be noted that the results of this survey provide an overview and a statistical representation of locations where asbestos-containing building materials are present. It was not a room-by-room survey thus the absence of sample results for any given location should not be interpreted as meaning there is no asbestos present. If such is the case more detailed inspections or tests should be performed by a qualified person to determine whether asbestos is present prior to conducting renovation, construction or maintenance work.

How to browse through the Asbestos web-database

1. [Access the database](#)

2. Once you have accessed the database; you will be directed to the main page. Please select "McGill Asbestos Report by Building"

Click here

3. This will bring you to [EHSA Report Menu \(mcgill.ca\)](#). From here click

[McGill Asbestos Report by Building](#)



Web Asbestos Reports

[McGill Asbestos Report by Building](#)

Click here

4. You can then either begin typing the building code or the building name, and **select the building from the drop-down list that appears**

The screenshot shows a web application interface for McGill Asbestos Reports. A modal dialog titled 'Report Parameters' is open. It contains a 'Disclaimer' section with text about the survey's scope and a warning to perform detailed inspections before renovation or maintenance. Below the disclaimer is a text input field labeled 'building_code' with the value 'DAVIS HOUSE' and a small 'x' icon to clear it. A red arrow points to this field, and a blue callout bubble with the text 'Type here' is positioned next to it. At the bottom of the dialog are 'Cancel' and 'View Report' buttons. The background shows the website's header with the McGill logo and a sidebar with 'Web Asbestos Reports' and 'McGill Asbestos Report by Building'.

5. **Make sure your browser allows pop-ups from this website.** The asbestos sampling report for the selected building will open. **You need to check for 5 important items on the report.**
1. Sample ID
 2. Sample location, material description and comments
 3. Asbestos detected
 4. Accessibility
 5. Friable asbestos material condition

The 3 possible scenarios:

There are **three possible scenarios** in an asbestos sampling report:

1. No asbestos detected
2. Asbestos detected
3. No asbestos data is currently available for the selected location


1. No asbestos detected

Below you will find an example of a report with **no asbestos detected** (scenario 1). Note the 5 important items listed above

McGill		Environmental Health & Safety Asbestos Sample Report by Building	
Building: DAVIS HOUSE			
Floor: 1		Room Type: Main Entrance	
Room #:			
Material Description: Brown cement material and beige joint compound Cement material phase			
Comments: The Brown cement material and beige joint compound Cement material phase, and joint compound phase. Both do not contain asbestos.			
Asbestos Detected (Yes/No): No			
Abated(Yes/No):No			
Actinolite (%) Amosite (%) Chrysotile (%) Crocidolite (%) Tremolite (%) Anthophyllite %			
Accessibility		Friable Asbestos Material Condition	
Accessible		No Good	
1	Sample ID: 02-0263-1		
2	Date Analyzed:2/2/2018		
3	Certificate:18-3123		
4	Sample Location: 128-0001 3/4" Wall Cement Plaster 3/4" 1-Hall2 3/4" #3		
5	Material Description: Grey and white material (mixture of cement and plaster)		
Comments: The Grey and white material (mixture of cement and plaster). Does not contain asbestos.			
Asbestos Detected (Yes/No): No			
Abated(Yes/No):No			
Actinolite (%) Amosite (%) Chrysotile (%) Crocidolite (%) Tremolite (%) Anthophyllite %			
Accessibility		Friable Asbestos Material Condition	
Accessible		No Good	
Sample ID: 02-0618-1			
Date Analyzed:2/6/2018			
Certificate:18-3123			
Sample Location: 128-0001 3/4" Wall Cement Plaster 3/4" 1-Hall2 3/4" #1			
Material Description: Grey and white material (mixture of cement and plaster)			
Comments: The Grey and white material (mixture of cement and plaster). Does not contain asbestos.			
Asbestos Detected (Yes/No): No			
Abated(Yes/No):No			
Actinolite (%) Amosite (%) Chrysotile (%) Crocidolite (%) Tremolite (%) Anthophyllite %			
Accessibility		Friable Asbestos Material Condition	
Accessible		No Good	

2. Asbestos detected


Below is an example of a report with **positive asbestos sampling** (Scenario 2)

McGill		Environmental Health & Safety Asbestos Sample Report by Building	
Building: DAVIS HOUSE			
Floor:		Room Type: stair case	
Room #:			
1	Sample ID: 14-1263-1		
2	Date Analyzed:12/12/2014		
3	Certificate:		
4	Sample Location: Plancher		
5	Material Description: Tuiles de vinyle 128-SS-TV		
Comments: The floor tiles contain 5% chrysotile asbestos.			
Asbestos Detected (Yes/No): Yes			
Abated(Yes/No):No			
Actinolite (%) Amosite (%) Chrysotile (%) Crocidolite (%) Tremolite (%) Anthophyllite %			
Accessibility		Friable Asbestos Material Condition	
Accessible		No Good	
Sample ID: 14-1264-1			
Date Analyzed:12/12/2014			
Certificate:			
Sample Location: Murs			
Material Description: Plâtre 128-SS-CP			
Comments: The wall plaster contains trace chrysotile asbestos.			
Asbestos Detected (Yes/No): Yes			
Abated(Yes/No):No			
Actinolite (%) Amosite (%) Chrysotile (%) Crocidolite (%) Tremolite (%) Anthophyllite %			
Accessibility		Friable Asbestos Material Condition	
Accessible		No Good	
			

3. No asbestos data is currently available for the selected location

There will be “no asbestos data available” for some selected rooms and buildings (Scenario 3). Please note that this does not mean that the room or building **does not contains asbestos**. There could be asbestos present in the room/building, however it has not been inspected nor sampled for asbestos, hence no data is available.

Below is one such example:

		Environmental Health & Safety			
		<i>Asbestos Sample Report by Building</i>			
Building: BARTON BUILDING					
No asbestos samples are available for this building					
Floor:					
Room #:		Room Type:			
Sample ID:		Date Analyzed:		Certificate:	
Sample Location:					
Material Description:					
Comments:					
Asbestos Detected (Yes/No): No			Abated(Yes/No):No		
Actinolite (%)	Amosite (%)	Chrysotile (%)	Crocidolite (%)	Tremolite (%)	Anthophyllite %
Accessibility		Friable Asbestos Material Condition			
		No			

How to interpret the results found in the report

Q1. The Quebec Permissible Limit (PEL) for asbestos is 0.1 fibres per cubic centimetre. Does this cover all types of asbestos?

Answer

All types of asbestos are addressed under the PEL, which is 0.1 fibres per cubic centimetre.

Q2. Why did McGill choose not to use the Quebec Permissible Limit (PEL) for asbestos?

Answer

It was decided that the Construction Safety Code Limit of **0.01 fibres per cubic centimetre** would be used as it is more restrictive. McGill is being extra cautious due to the presence of asbestos in its buildings. Also, in many cases, asbestos issues at McGill arise during construction or renovation projects.

Q3. How do I know if the results in the reports are in compliance with the Construction Safety Code Limit (0.01 fibres per cubic centimetre) for asbestos?

The fibre per cc measurement found in the report is then compared to the Construction Safety Code Limit (**0.01 fibres per cubic centimetre**).

Therefore, if the values are on or below the Construction Safety Code Limit, it is safe to occupy the area.

If the values are above the Construction Safety Code Limit, it is deemed unsafe to occupy the area. The area must not be occupied until further testing is carried out.

Note: If you cannot find the information for the particular room/location you are searching for **you can open a ticket with EHS by clicking**

[here](#).

Please include **a phone number**, and **the exact building/room** (and floor plan if available) you are searching for in the description.

Keep track of your reference number and use “View Request” to view the ticket. Feel free to provide additional comments.