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


2. You will be brought to the following page: [https://www.mcgill.ca/ehs/programs-and-services/facilities-safety/asbestos/asbestos-web-database](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](https://www.mcgill.ca/ehs/programs-and-services/facilities-safety/asbestos/asbestos-web-database).

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.

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 the asbestos database is to also address a Commission des Normes, de l’Équerre et du Travail (CNETT) requirement that focuses on the safe management of asbestos. In 2013, new provisions were designed to reduce the exposure of workers to asbestos dust. By 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.

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How to browse through the Asbestos web-database

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

3. This will bring you to EHSA Report Menu (mcgill.ca). From here click McGill Asbestos Report by Building
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.

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.

![Example Report 1](image1.png)

2. **Asbestos detected**

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

![Example Report 2](image2.png)
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 contain 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:
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.