

# Park City, MT School Asbestos Release

January 2026

## Background

- On December 17, 2025, a windstorm damaged portions of the Park City School roof.
- Asbestos containing material (roofing and vermiculite) was released to the school grounds and surrounding area. It also entered the school shortly after the incident.
- On December 23, Park City School District closed the school and students have not reentered since.
- On December 23, an inspection done by the school district's contractor confirmed the vermiculite contained asbestos greater than 1%.
- On January 6, Montana Department of Environmental Quality staff observed asbestos contaminated materials surrounding the school property and on surrounding private property.
- On January 12, Montana Department of Environmental Quality requested EPA's assistance.
- On January 13, EPA deployed an On-Scene Coordinator.



Vermiculite



Vermiculite in nearby yard

## Current Status

### *Inside School Building*

After the windstorm, the school district's contractor began cleaning the interior of the school. The work is moving forward and is anticipated to conclude within a week.

DEQ issued an emergency permit for removing vermiculite on the school property.

### *Air Monitoring*

The county school district's contractor began asbestos ambient air monitoring after the incident. The past two weeks have been non-detect for asbestos coming off of the school.

## Upcoming Work

### *Surrounding Homes*

EPA estimates approximately 15 homes have asbestos contamination in their yards and require cleanup. Several alleys are also affected by asbestos contamination. EPA anticipates beginning work as quickly as possible.



EPA Website

### *School Grounds*

The work on the school grounds is currently pending and is anticipated to begin as soon as possible. Contamination on the school grounds must be addressed as part of the DEQ emergency asbestos permit. The school grounds are fenced off and not accessible to the public.

## Information about Asbestos

### *Asbestos*

Asbestos includes six minerals made of fibers naturally occurring in the environment. Asbestos fibers are too small to be seen by the naked eye. They do not dissolve in water and do not evaporate. Exposure to asbestos increases the chances of developing asbestos-related diseases.

### **Risks**

Asbestos-related diseases are typically linked to exposure of asbestos over long periods of time. Exposure to asbestos does not mean you will develop health problems. Signs of asbestos-related disease may appear 10 to 40 years after exposure. Asbestos is classified as a known human carcinogen.

Asbestos primarily affects the lungs and lining of the lungs. If you have a history of being around asbestos, your doctor can conduct several medical tests to help diagnose asbestos related diseases. These tests may be used to detect early signs of lung changes caused by asbestos, but they cannot detect the fibers themselves.

### *Reducing Exposure*

The main risk from asbestos is from inhaling airborne asbestos.

- Clean using wet rags or a mop and a high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) vacuum
  - Only HEPA vacuums have small enough filters to catch asbestos particles, regular vacuums can spread contamination.
- Use doormats
- Remove shoes before entering your home
- Keep windows closed on windy days
- Avoid dust
- Use water to wet soil before gardening, landscaping, or team sports events
- Wash hands after working outside in the soil
- Spray your patio with water instead of sweeping it
- Stay on pavement or ground covered with grass or mulch

## Contacts

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