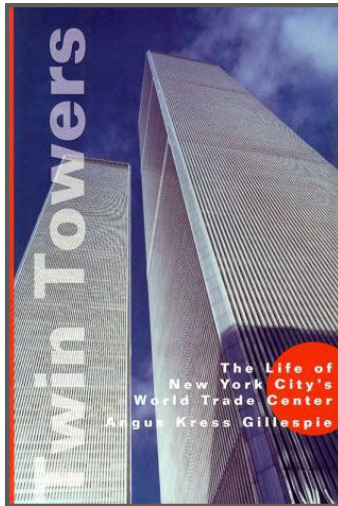


## TWIN TOWERS – A look at the asbestos fire retardant applied to the steel structure



Excerpts from “TWIN TOWERS”

The Life of New York City's Trade Center

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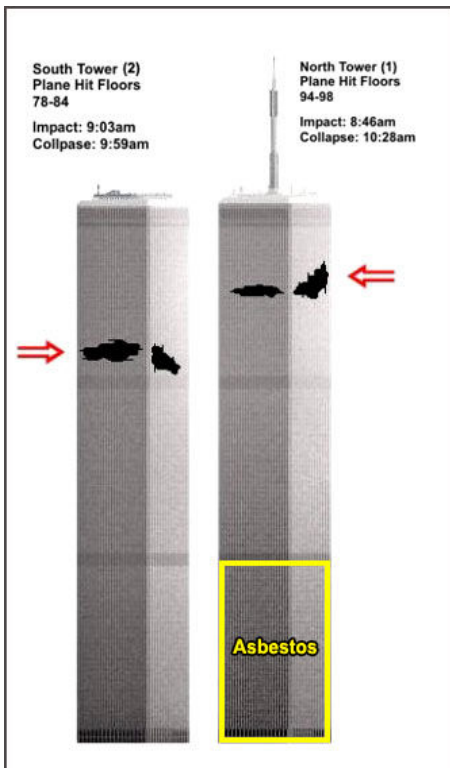
Product: **Isolatek, Blaze Shield II** [CLICK HERE](#)

Replacement for Asbestos fire retardant.

**Comment:** It's possible the amount of asbestos in the Twin Towers was significantly over-estimated. The author of *Twin Towers* details how asbestos spray was reportedly stopped at the 34<sup>th</sup> floor with the remainder of WTC-1 and presumably WTC-2 sprayed with a non-asbestos fire-retardant (BLAZE SHIELD II) of equal effectiveness. The issue for the plaintiff (people vs. NIST) is: **what assumptions about asbestos did NIST or FEMA use when considering their reported conclusions?** EPA records

should show the history of applied fire retardants that match records available from the building professional in charge and again from records kept by the Blaze Shield contractor. Comparing the characteristics of the replacement product against the asbestos formula would be necessary to re-validate related conclusions reached in the NIST final report. – H Saive.

**It had been standard industry practice** for years in the steel buildings to use a spray-on fireproofing containing **asbestos**. The technique was to mix dry asbestos with water and shoot the mixture through a nozzle onto beams, floors, and ceilings. This step was regarded as necessary because steel, in a fire, will bend and warp. But just as work was well under way on the North Tower, the use of fireproofing materials containing **asbestos** had come under scrutiny by Dr. Irving J. Selikoff, director of the environmental sciences laboratory at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. Dr. Selikoff's research proved what medical researchers had long suspected, that asbestos caused cancer. As a result of this work, the Environmental Protection Agency issued a restrictive set of standards covering the spraying of **asbestos** containing materials. The EPA was especially concerned because in the spraying process as much as 50 percent of the **asbestos** escapes into the air.



Ironically, the World Trade Center building was the first and only project in New York City where the spray contractor, Mario and DiBono, had taken precautions to prevent the scattering of dried **asbestos** as well as planning elaborate cleanup and disposal procedures. The building's exterior on the floors where **asbestos** was being sprayed was tightly enclosed by canvas, and the **asbestos** spray work area was closed off from other interior areas. However, the job lacked a vacuum-cleaning operation as required by the new regulations.

By this time, construction had already reached the thirty fourth floor. A difficult decision was made to stop using fireproofing with **asbestos**. Meanwhile, an initial search to find alternatives came up with nothing. Fortunately, a **new material came on the market, introduced by U.S. Mineral Products of Stanhope, New Jersey.**

Independent laboratory tests showed that the new material was as effective, from the stand point of fireproofing survivability, as the older one containing **asbestos** fibers. Then a difficult decision was made to change all of the spray in the World Trade Center, at the huge cost of \$300,000. However, in retrospect, the decision to shift to the new material was the right one. To remove **asbestos** from just one floor of the center now would cost more than a million dollars.

While the public controversy about **asbestos** was making the evening television news, much of the routine work inside the skyscraper was proceeding without notice. This work would be invisible to the tenants of the completed skyscraper. They would care, of course, that the building was warm enough or cool enough. They would want water when they turned on the tap. They would want power when they plugged in an appliance.