

## Re: Detecting asbestos fibers

**Source:** <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.materials/2004-07/0117.html>

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**From:** jbuch (jbuch\_at\_CUTHERErevealed.net)

**Date:** 07/19/04

Date: Mon, 19 Jul 2004 12:31:59 -0500

me wrote:

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>  
> *Thanks you your comments.*  
>  
> *I am not trying to have a second income from asbestos detection! Rest assured. If I can I'll stay away from the stuff. I am looking for a microscope and have other uses for it as well. This is more of a hobby related stuff. I don't want a toy instrument so I might just as well buy a better scope (less than \$1000).*  
>  
> *From what I gather if I look at a sample at a high magnification (say 100x -1000x) and don't see anything resembling straight arrow needle looking fibers I can't say for sure if there is asbestos. However if I do see needle-looking fibers there's a much better chance that asbestos might be there.*

I suppose that you are unaware that there are more than a half a dozen minerals that qualify under the term "asbestos".

Only a few of them exhibit the needle morphology and are therefore considered dangerous.

The criterion of "needles" actually fails to detect many forms of asbestos.

Here is some information on this subject.... and you can google up a lot more.

<http://www.epa.gov/swerrims/ahec/summary/presentations/day1/addison1.pdf>

You are making a very good decision to not buy a "toy" microscope. It will open your eyes to a lot.

Jim