

Other construction workers, steam fitters, electricians, welders, carpenters, ironworkers, plumbers, masons, tile setters, who are inhaling the same dusts.

All over every city, millions of sub-microscopic and high respirable particles are sprayed on buildings every time they are made fire-proof. That snowy white material you see fluttering down to earth when they are building the skyscraper, is amorphous glass fibers (rock wool) and amosite asbestos. Whenever you see belts of yellow canvas girdling a skyscraper under construction, it means that asbestos is being sprayed somewhere inside, and the contractors are making an effort to prevent billions of asbestos fibers from being blown all over the city.

Talc Related To Asbestos

In the March, 1971 *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology* (British) there is a paper on "Talc and Carcinoma of the Ovary and the Cervix" prepared by Dr. Keith Griffiths, Director of Cancer Research in Cardiff, Wales. "Researchers found particles of talc in approximately 75% of the ovarian tumors and 50% of the cervical tumors examined. The implications were obvious. Talc, the principal 'active ingredient' in talcum and baby powders and in a wide variety of other cosmetic preparations, including some of the so-called feminine hygiene sprays, may cause cancer." Most talcs contain some asbestos contaminant, so the real villain may prove to be the asbestos in talcum powder.

Although no definite conclusions can be drawn without further study, it is important to examine the possible dangers involved in the use of this mineral. Talc, both chemically and geologically, is closely related to 3 of the 5 types of asbestos. The two families of minerals are so intimately linked in nature that it is difficult, if not impossible to separate. A well known brand of talcum powder was quietly removed from the market in England when it was discovered to be laced with asbestos.

Dr. Langer, a mineralogist with New York Mount Sinai Hospital, recently examined the fine white preservative powder inside some toy balloons and found there was asbestos in them.

"It is the close association of talc with a known killer like asbestos that makes further research in this area so vital. Talc, ($Mg_3Si_4O_{10}(OH)_2$) and asbestos ($Mg_3Si_2O_5(OH)_4$) in its chrysolite form (95% of the asbestos in the United States) are hydrated magnesium silicates. Both are mined from the earth, then separated from their host rocks."

It is known that older talc workers die of lung cancer at a rate four times higher than would be expected. Talc workers are also subject to talcosis, a disease which scars the lungs.