

SEPTEMBER 2024

## Cleanup Activities

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is in Paterson, New Jersey at the Allied Textile Printing site to begin removing asbestos and lead contamination from buildings on the site.

The buildings are within 100 feet of Quarry Lawn Park. This puts people visiting the Quarry Lawn Park and some nearby residents at risk of exposure to asbestos if the EPA does not remove the asbestos from the buildings.

Over the next 12 months, the EPA will take actions to reduce the community's risk of being harmed by asbestos contamination.

- This fall, the EPA will begin by taking down the upper half of the smokestack and stabilizing it. In its current condition, the smokestack is at risk of collapsing, which threatens the safety of the workers when heavy equipment is used on the site.
- Once the smokestack is safe to work around, the EPA will make sure that the historic Colt Gun Building is stable while the EPA is working on site.
- The EPA will then begin removing asbestos from several buildings at the site that are contaminated. Boiler ash contaminated with lead will also be removed from the Boiler House Complex structures. To remove the lead and asbestos contamination, the EPA will carefully take apart portions of buildings to eliminate hazards and remove structures that are contaminated.
- After the EPA removes the contamination from the buildings, the contaminated material will be transported off-site for disposal at an EPA-approved treatment/disposal facility.



### Asbestos Contamination at the ATP site

The Allied Textile Printing site includes several structures that are falling apart including some that contain materials with asbestos, which has the potential to spread as the structures break down and material becomes airborne. One of these structures is a 118-foot-tall smokestack that is unstable, leaning, and at risk of collapsing. The smokestack and several surrounding structures, called the Boiler House Complex, are contaminated with asbestos and lead.

**Historical Preservation:** The EPA recognizes that some of these contaminated structures are historically significant to the City of Paterson and other stakeholders. The EPA will continue to work with the city, the National Park Service, and historical preservation stakeholders to ensure that throughout the process, the EPA is balancing the need to protect workers, the community, and the environment with the desire to preserve the historical buildings.

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**Asbestos** is the name given to a group of six different fibrous minerals (amosite, chrysotile, crocidolite, and the fibrous varieties of tremolite, actinolite, and anthophyllite) that occur naturally in the environment. Because of its characteristics, asbestos has been used for a wide range of manufactured goods including building materials and heat resistant materials.

Exposure to asbestos usually occurs by breathing contaminated air in workplaces that make or use asbestos. Asbestos is also found in the air of buildings containing asbestos that are being torn down or renovated.

Asbestos exposure can cause serious lung problems and cancer. People with asbestosis have difficulty breathing, often a cough, and in severe cases heart enlargement.

For more information about asbestos, visit:  
<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts61.pdf>

## Safety Plan

The EPA has developed a plan and procedures to protect residents and workers during the asbestos removal.

- The EPA will use dust control measures such as spraying water to keep dust down and out of the air while work is taking place.
- The EPA will monitor and sample the air within the work area and around the perimeter of the site to protect workers, the community, and the environment as the work takes place. The community will be able to view air monitoring data at:  
[response.epa.gov/alliedtextileprintingrv3](https://response.epa.gov/alliedtextileprintingrv3)
- As the asbestos and contaminated ash are removed, the EPA will place waste materials into trucks that are properly covered, and the waste will be safely contained and inspected before it is shipped off to an EPA approved disposal facility.
- The EPA will have a decontamination station for workers to clean off and remove asbestos as they exit the site. The station will be located inside Quarry Lawn Park.

## Site Background

The Allied Textile Printing site is next to the Paterson Great Falls National Historic site. For over a century the site was central to the manufacturing and textile industry in Paterson, New Jersey. The Colt Gun Mill was built in 1836 to manufacture firearms and remnants of the building are still there today. The site became a hub for textile manufacturing including silk and dyeing until closure in the 1980s.

In 2021, the EPA finished building a fence around the site to protect community members from direct contact to asbestos. Over the past year the EPA has been working to develop a plan that will protect the community and environment while preserving as much of the history of this site as possible.

## EPA Contact Information

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