

# SCOOP

THE LATEST TRENDS, SERVICES & PROMOTIONS

HARDLINES, SGS HONG KONG

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## DIATOMITE PRODUCTS WITH ASBESTOS PRESENCE RECALLED IN JAPAN

**Diatomite** (or Diatomaceous earth) is a type of powder made from the sediment of fossilized algae found in bodies of water. Because the cells of these algae were high in a compound called silica, the dried sediment produced from these fossils are also very high in silica. These deposits are found all over the world.

The physical properties of diatomite have led to its use in many commercial applications, the most common being for the filtration of liquids or as a filler, for example, in paints. Other uses of diatomite include insulation (fire bricks), fine abrasion (in some toothpaste and polishes) and as a pesticide.

In recent years, diatomite is widely used in domestic product in view of its high absorption power for water, moisture, as well as smell and VOCs. Nowadays products such as bath mats, coasters, desiccating articles made with diatomite are easily found in the market.



In late December 2020, Japan's Consumer Affairs Agency (CAA) has recalled several Diatomite products due to the presence of asbestos.

Asbestos is a collective term used to refer to six naturally occurring silicate minerals, which can be a contaminant found in soil. If products containing asbestos are disturbed, tiny asbestos fibers are released into the air. When asbestos fibers are breathed in, they may get trapped in the lungs and remain there for a long time. Over time, these fibers can accumulate and cause scarring and inflammation, which can affect breathing and lead to serious health problems.

To safeguard your health and evaluate the effectiveness of such consumer products, **SGS** is able to offer a wide range of service from asbestos detection to product performance evaluation such as Water Absorption, Slip resistance, Durability test, etc.

**For enquiries, please contact one of our Sales Associates for details!**



With more than 130 years' experience, **SGS** offers the broadest range of product testing to clients around the world. Our global network of testing facilities, staffed by knowledgeable and experienced personnel, can smooth your products' route to market.

### FOR ENQUIRIES

#### HONG KONG

Mr. Ivan Ching  
t +852 6018 5418 e [Ivan.Ching@sgs.com](mailto:Ivan.Ching@sgs.com)

Ms. Eunice Chan  
t +852 6018 8584 e [Eunice.Chan@sgs.com](mailto:Eunice.Chan@sgs.com)

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