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Respirable Glass Wool

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Respirable Glass Wool*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C44442.

A manufactured fiber in which the fiber-forming substance is glass. Silicon dioxide is the primary chemical component in all glass types; however, many other metal oxides are present. Respirable glass wool has a mass median aerodynamic diameter of approximately 3.5 μm or less. Fibers less than 1 μm in diameter have the highest probability for deposition in the alveolar regions of the lung, where gas exchange occurs. The major uses of glass wool are in thermal, electrical, and acoustical insulation, weatherproofing and filtration media. The highest levels of occupational exposure to this fiber occur when it is used in confined spaces. The primary routes of potential human exposure to glass wool are inhalation and dermal and/or eye contact. It is reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen.