

Rock



anthophyllite

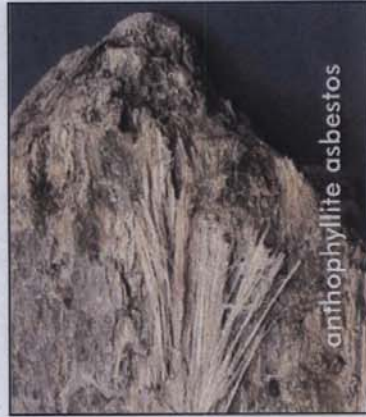


tremolite



actinolite

Asbestiform



anthophyllite asbestos



tremolite asbestos



actinolite asbestos

Rock



antigorite



riebeckite



cummingtonite-grunerite

Asbestiform



chrysotile

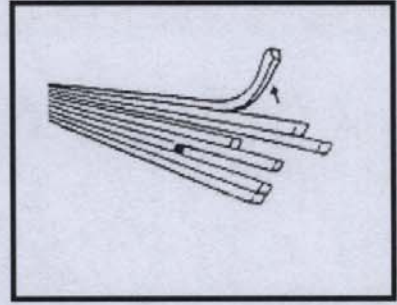
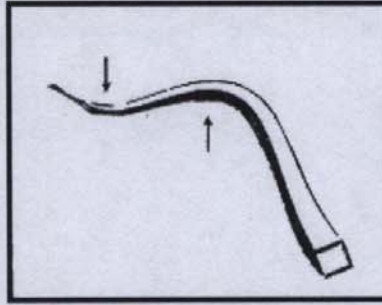
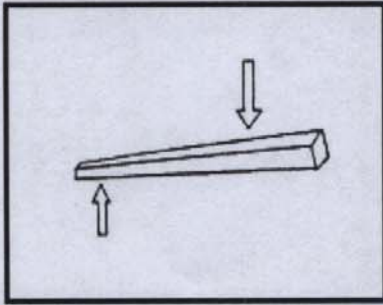


crocidolite



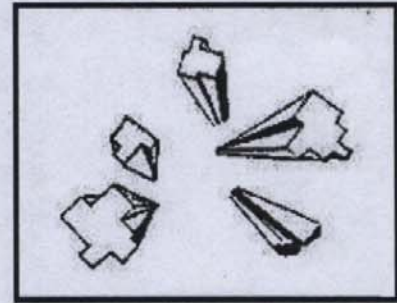
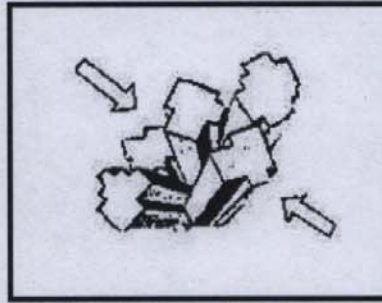
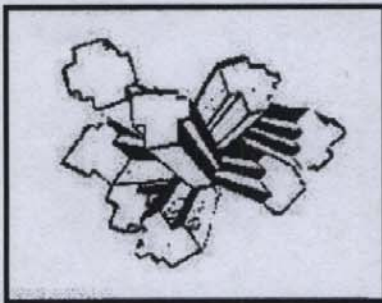
amosite

ASBESTIFORM



As the drawings above illustrate, asbestiform (asbestos-like) minerals consist of fibers that grow almost exclusively in one dimension, are easily bent and occur as bundles of smaller fibers, which are called fibrils. In fact, the bundling effect of asbestiform minerals is a unique distinguishing feature. Some asbestiform minerals display splayed ends. Asbestiform minerals also are long and thin, with aspect (length-to-width) ratios of typically 20:1 to 100:1 or greater. Most asbestiform fibers are less than 0.1 microns in width, and nearly all are less than 0.5 micron. Individual fibers are only visible with the aid of a microscope.

ROCKS



Unlike asbestiform minerals, ordinary rock-forming minerals grow in several directions at once. Under pressure, unlike asbestiform minerals which bend, ordinary rock-forming minerals fracture easily into particles called cleavage fragments. Of those, some are needle-shaped (acicular), and some show stair-step cleavage patterns. Cleavage fragments tend to be shorter and thicker than their asbestiform counterparts; nearly all have widths that exceed 0.5 microns and lengths below about 10 microns.

