

Asbestos

What Is It?

The word Asbestos is used to describe 6 types of minerals found in rock. These 6 types are separated into 2 categories:

1. Amphibole:

- contains long, chain-like fibers that are easily inhaled and stay in the lungs for a long period of time.

2. Serpentine:

- composed of layered, curled fibers. Considered less harmful and less damaging to the lungs.



What Is It Used For?

Asbestos fibers are used in insulation, building and roofing materials, and automobile brake pads.

Is It In My Insulation At Home?



Vermiculite is a mineral used in insulation production and can be contaminated with small quantities of amphibole asbestos.



Millions of homes worldwide have this contaminated insulation since it was shipped to many countries, including Canada.

What Are The Health Risks Of Asbestos Exposure?



There is a small risk of asbestos in homes built after the 1990s & older homes that are well-maintained.



Fibers can be released into the air if materials with asbestos are broken down or moved during home renovations, creating a greater risk of inhaling it.



Asbestosis – A serious condition that causes lung disease & lung damage. Other risks include developing lung cancer, mesothelioma, & other cancers.

Risk Of Asbestos Exposure In Children

Children are at higher risk of asbestos exposure from playing in contaminated soil or dust.



Children are at higher risk for having health effects from asbestos exposure that are unnoticeable.

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