

Mesothelioma Cancer Caused by Asbestos

Many people are unaware that over 80% of mesothelioma cancer cases in history is tied directly to asbestos exposure. In addition, an estimated [43,000 people die worldwide every year due to mesothelioma](#). Many of these victims have been wrongfully exposed to asbestos through their occupation or their home.

This document is designed to help understand the dangers of asbestos and to provide detailed information on the deadly disease caused by exposure to asbestos - mesothelioma.

What Is Asbestos?

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral that was used as insulation in many products due to its durability and fire resistant properties. The EPA estimates that there are 30 million homes that still contain asbestos and on average there are 30 million pounds of asbestos used annually despite government limitations.

Asbestos is primarily found in homes and buildings that were built before the early 1980's, however it is possible for newer homes to also contain small doses of asbestos. It is advised that if you expect there is any asbestos in your home, to contact a professional inspector to get it tested from time to time. The investment is small when comparing it to the future health for you and your family.

The areas that [asbestos is most commonly found](#) are:

- Around air ducts
- Above ceilings
- Below floor tiles
- Insulation in walls & attics
- Between walls and drywall
- In certain cement pipes, boilers, and water heaters
- In window Putty

How Does Asbestos Cause Mesothelioma?

Asbestos is a harmless mineral if installed properly and enclosed in a home. However, as homes become worn down over time and exposed airborne, the asbestos can become friable. Friable asbestos is crumbly in nature and releases fibers into the air. These fibers then can get inhaled or swallowed where they are easily lodged in the lining of the lungs, abdomen, or heart due to their strong-rigid nature. As scar tissue forms, cancerous mesothelioma cells are primed for growth in these areas. Sometimes it takes anywhere from 10-50 years for mesothelioma due to asbestos to fully develop, which makes diagnosis and treatment options difficult.

Types of Mesothelioma & Areas Affected

There are three main types of mesothelioma that make up the majority of cases. Exposure to asbestos fibers is responsible for all three types of cancer, with the differences between them being where the asbestos fibers get lodged and cause damage.

They are:

1. *Pleural Mesothelioma (Lungs)*

- The most common, making up about 80% of mesothelioma cases, type of the disease is pleural mesothelioma. Pleural mesothelioma is associated with the lungs primarily due to the fact that the cancer develops in the lining of the lungs. Sadly, this type of mesothelioma is very hard to diagnose, with many patients not fully knowing they have a problem until the disease develops into [stage 4 mesothelioma](#).

2. *Peritoneal Mesothelioma (Abdomen)*

- Peritoneal mesothelioma usually is related to asbestos fibers that were swallowed during exposure. It is when mesothelioma cancerous cells form in the lining of the abdomen. The common problem with this type of mesothelioma is that once it is in the abdomen, it doesn't take long for [peritoneal cancer to spread to other organs](#) such as the liver, spleen, and bowel.

3. *Pericardial Mesothelioma (Heart)*

- This type of mesothelioma originates in the lining of the heart and is extremely rare. It is noted that less than 1% of mesothelioma cases are categorized as pericardial. Unfortunately, most of the time pericardial mesothelioma leads to heart attack.