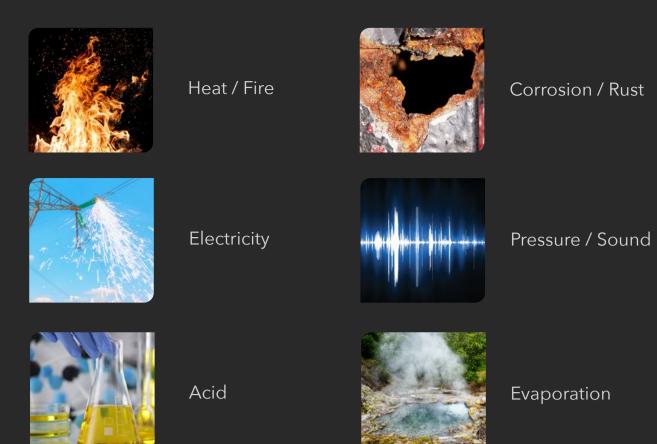
## **5 THINGS**

## To Know If You Were Exposed To Asbestos

## ASBESTOS IS A GROUP OF MINERALS THAT ARE EXTREMELY STRONG AND HIGHLY RESISTANT TO:



Because of its strength and durability, asbestos was used in buildings, vehicles and products of all kinds. Unfortunately, asbestos fibers can be easily inhaled or swallowed, leading to respiratory problems and <u>asbestos-related illnesses</u> including mesothelioma and other cancers.

# YOU MAY NOT KNOW THAT YOU ARE BREATHING OR SWALLOWING ASBESTOS FIBERS.







Asbestos easily breaks up into fibers

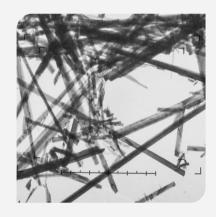
Asbestos fibers have no taste or smell

Asbestos fibers are microscopic

### ASBESTOS FIBERS CAN GET EMBEDDED IN YOUR BREATHING OR GASTRIC SYSTEMS.



Asbestos fibers are extremely sharp



Asbestos fibers are highly durable and some never leave the body<sup>1</sup>



Asbestos fibers do not dissolve

# ASBESTOS CAN INJURE YOU DECADES AFTER EXPOSURE.



Asbestos fibers tear at human tissue, this can cause scarring and further damage over time



Over time, damage from asbestos fibers can disrupt the body's proper functioning, leading to breathing problems and <u>asbestos-</u> <u>related illnesses</u>, including cancers like mesothelioma



People have developed asbestos-related illnesses 40 or 50 years after their exposure.<sup>2</sup>

## FIVE IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW IF YOU MAY HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO ASBESTOS

#### MINOR OR BRIEF EXPOSURE TO ASBESTOS IS NOT ALWAYS HARMFUL.

Most patients diagnosed with asbestosrelated illness were regularly exposed. However, studies show there is no safe level of asbestos exposure.<sup>3</sup>





### THE EARLIER MESOTHELIOMA IS DIAGNOSED, THE MORE LIKELY IT IS TO BE TREATABLE.

If you are in any way concerned, consult your healthcare professional. Mesotheliomas are typically inoperable, but if detected early enough, it may be possible to remove them.

#### SIGNS OF ASBESTOS-RELATED DISEASE CAN APPEAR SIMILAR TO OTHER HEALTH CONDITIONS.

Symptoms such as chest pain, shortness of breath and a chronic cough, for example, can be misdiagnosed, so if you have been exposed to asbestos, seek medical advice.



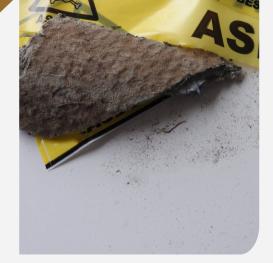


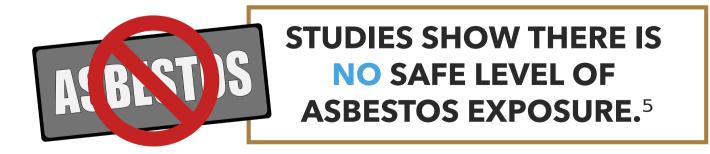
### ASBESTOS CAN ALSO BE SWALLOWED.

Asbestos is usually breathed in, and asbestos exposure is often associated with respiratoryproblems and cancers like lung cancer. But asbestos fibers are microscopic and have no taste

ASBESTOS HAS BEEN BANNED IN MORE THAN 60 COUNTRIES.<sup>4</sup>

Many Americans mistakenly think that asbestos has been banned in the U.S. But asbestos is still in some products and a great deal of construction. Use caution to avoid exposure to asbestos, especially during construction, demolition and remodeling. There are safer alternatives, and proper protective equipment to avoid dangerous exposure.





If you believe you have been exposed to asbestos in the past, or if you have symptoms of an <u>asbestos-related illness</u>, contact a healthcare professional.

Treating asbestos-related illnesses can involve expensive hospital bills and medications, as well as lost wages and limitations in your lifestyle. But compensation is available for spouses, household members and others with illnesses affected by their secondary exposure to asbestos. Speak to an experienced <u>asbestos attorney</u> to understand your options.

<sup>1</sup>Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, <u>PUBLIC HEALTH STATEMENT ASBESTOS</u> (CAS#: 1332-21-4) <sup>2</sup>Pierce, J.S., McKinley, M.A., Paustenbach, D.J. and Finley, B.L., 2008. <u>An evaluation of reported no-effect chrysotile asbestos</u> exposures for lung cancer and mesothelioma. Critical Reviews in toxicology, 38(3), pp.191-214.

<sup>3</sup>Lanphear, B.P. and Buncher, C.R., 1992. Latent period for malignant mesothelioma of occupational origin. JOM, 34(7), pp.718-721. <sup>4</sup>Arachi, D., Furuya, S., David, A., Mangwiro, A., Chimed-Ochir, O., Lee, K., Tighe, P., Takala, J., Driscoll, T. and Takahashi, K., 2021. Development of the "National Asbestos Profile" to Eliminate Asbestos-Related Diseases in 195 Countries. International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, 18(4), p.1804.

<sup>5</sup>Lanphear, B.P. and Buncher, C.R., 1992. Latent period for malignant mesothelioma of occupational origin. JOM, 34(7), pp.718-721.

<sup>5</sup>Kelly, B., 2017. <u>Take-Home Toxin: Following Kesner's Lead and Creating a Consistent Framework for Determining Duty toward</u> <u>Victims of Secondary Asbestos Exposure</u>. Md. L. Rev., 77, p.1166. In 1972, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) set up regulations on asbestos to protect workers and their families from being injured by asbestos. Many state and federal courts have said that these regulations are also to protect spouses and others exposed by coming into contact with the workers. Spouses have recovered money for injuries caused by their secondary asbestos exposure.

To learn more, click here  $\rightarrow$ 



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