

# WHAT EXACTLY IS ASBESTOS AND WHY IS IT DANGEROUS?



## Ασβεστος

The word asbestos means indestructible.

The ancient Greeks gave asbestos its name, because it does not easily:

- Burn
- Melt
- Corrode / Rust
- Dissolve
- Evaporate

Asbestos also resists **ELECTRICITY** and **SOUND**, and is used as an insulator for heat, wire, and acoustics.

- For many years, asbestos sound-proofing was used in some recording studios.

Asbestos can be easily crumbled into fibers. Asbestos fibers can be...

- woven into a fireproof fabric
- sprayed on walls or products
- mixed with other materials

...making them more resistant to heat, flame, sound, acids, electricity and corrosion.



### Can You Wash Clothes That Have Been Exposed To Asbestos?

**Spouses and others in the vehicle or household were exposed.**

- Anyone who cleaned asbestos-tainted clothes is at the greatest risk.

**How long do asbestos diseases take to appear?**

- Asbestos fibers can become embedded in your lungs, stomach or other parts of your body. Asbestos fibers are durable, and over time they cause damage and scarring that leads to [asbestos-related illnesses](#), including cancer.

**Asbestos is a mineral**, a rock that comes from the ground. Asbestos was used in thousands of products, buildings and vehicles because of its durability.

The European Emperor Charlemagne was said to have had an **asbestos tablecloth**.

After a meal, he'd impress his guests by **throwing it into the fire**.

When it was removed, it would be **glistening and clean**.

Studies show there is no safe level of asbestos exposure, and people have developed asbestos-related illnesses 40, 50 or in some cases even 70 years after they were first exposed.