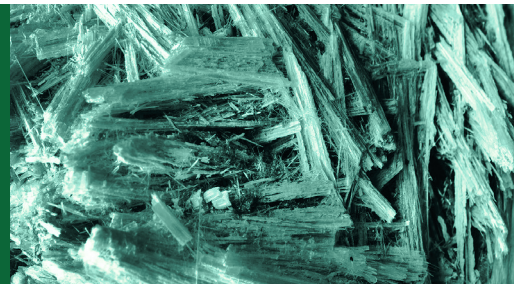


# Asbestos in the Home



## Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral fiber found in rocks and soil.

Asbestos fibers do not dissolve in water, and they resist heat and fire. Asbestos was used in many building construction materials until the 1980s.

## Asbestos may be present in building materials found in the home.

Houses built or remodeled from the early 1940s through the 1970s are more likely to have been built with asbestos-containing-building materials. Asbestos can be found in exterior siding, roofing products, vermiculite attic insulation, pipe insulation, drywall, popcorn ceilings, flooring tiles, and more. Asbestos is still present in older building materials and is still used in some products today.

## When asbestos-containing materials are friable, damaged, or disturbed, the fibers can become airborne.

Friable means the asbestos can be crumbled, pulverized, or reduced to powder by hand pressure when dry.

## Breathing or swallowing asbestos fibers can cause serious health problems.

Exposure to asbestos fibers for a long time can lead to a higher risk of lung cancer, asbestosis, and mesothelioma. It can take many years for health problems to develop. Most diseases from asbestos are diagnosed at least 15 years after exposure. No level of asbestos exposure is considered safe.

## Asbestos that is not damaged or disturbed is not an immediate health risk.

Usually, it is best to leave asbestos-containing material that is in good condition alone.

## You can't tell if a material does not contain asbestos by looking at it unless it's glass, wood, or metal.

You can assume other building materials contain asbestos. Or samples of the material can be analyzed at a lab. It's much safer for you and your family to have a trained and licensed inspector collect the samples than do it yourself. Today, material containing asbestos that could be breathed in must be labeled. Older materials that contain asbestos may not be labeled.

## Do not disturb material that contains asbestos or may contain asbestos.

Licensed Asbestos Contractors are trained in how to safely remove, repair, encapsulate, or enclose and dispose of asbestos-containing building material. It is recommended that anyone disturbing asbestos works with a licensed Asbestos Contractor. In some buildings, working with a licensed Asbestos Project Designer and Asbestos Contractor is required.



Learn more about asbestos and requirements at [health.ri.gov/asbestos](https://health.ri.gov/asbestos).