

Should I be Concerned About Asbestos if I Live in an Older Home?

Yes, any home built before or in the 1980s is likely to contain asbestos-containing materials. Any homes remodeled during this time also fall into this category. The use of asbestos was so widespread that the large majority of materials used for constructing homes contained the substance. Contractors used asbestos because it was light, durable, an excellent insulator, and fireproof.

Where Can Asbestos be Found in Older Homes?

Many types of building products and insulation materials used in homes contained asbestos. Some common products that may contain asbestos and have the potential to release fibers include resilient floor tiles, door gaskets, roofing shingles, textured paint, walls, and ceilings. If asbestos is suspected within the home, the first step is to call a licensed professional abatement contractor and have the suspicious material tested. If testing is too expensive, treat the material as if it contains asbestos. Do not attempt to remove the asbestos-containing materials by yourself.

Why Should I be Concerned About Asbestos in My Home?

Excessive amounts of exposure to asbestos are known to cause asbestosis, lung cancer, and mesothelioma cancer. [Mesothelioma](#) is a type of cancer that develops in the mesothelial cells found in the body. [Pleural mesothelioma](#), the most common type of mesothelioma cancer, develops in the mesothelial lining of the lungs. Due to an extended latency period, mesothelioma treatment often results in palliative measures rather than curative.