TYPES OF ASBESTOS



CHRYSOTILE

Chrysotile is the most common variety of asbestos found in North America. It accounts for approximately 90-95% of asbestos that was used in commercial applications in the United States. Chrysotile asbestos fibers are long, white, and curly, with a more "fluffy" appearance than other types of asbestos. It is classified as **serpentine** asbestos because of its curly, flexible fibers that can be woven.



AMOSITE

Amosite is often referred to as brown asbestos due to its high iron content. It was most commonly used within different types of insulation products. Amosite, along with the following four types, is classified as amphibole asbestos because of its straight, brittle, and needle-like fibers.



CROCIDOLITE

Crocidolite consists of highly friable fibers, often strikingly blue in color. It is considered to be the most dangerous type of asbestos because its long, sharp fibers can readily be inhaled.



TREMOLITE

Tremolite was not used commercially on its own, but could be found as a contaminant in chrysotile asbestos, vermiculite, and talc powders.

Tremolite can appear brown, gray, white, green, or even translucent.



ANTHOPHYLLITE

Like tremolite asbestos,
anthophyllite had limited commercial
use. Traces of anthophyllite can
be found in vermiculite and talc
products. Anthophyllite asbestos can
range in color from white to gray
to brown.



ACTINOLITE

Actinolite is a rare form of asbestos that can be found as a trace contaminate in products, including ones containing talc and vermiculite. It has a harsh texture and is most often found in metamorphic rock. It can appear in many shades, such as green, yellow, brown, white, or gray.

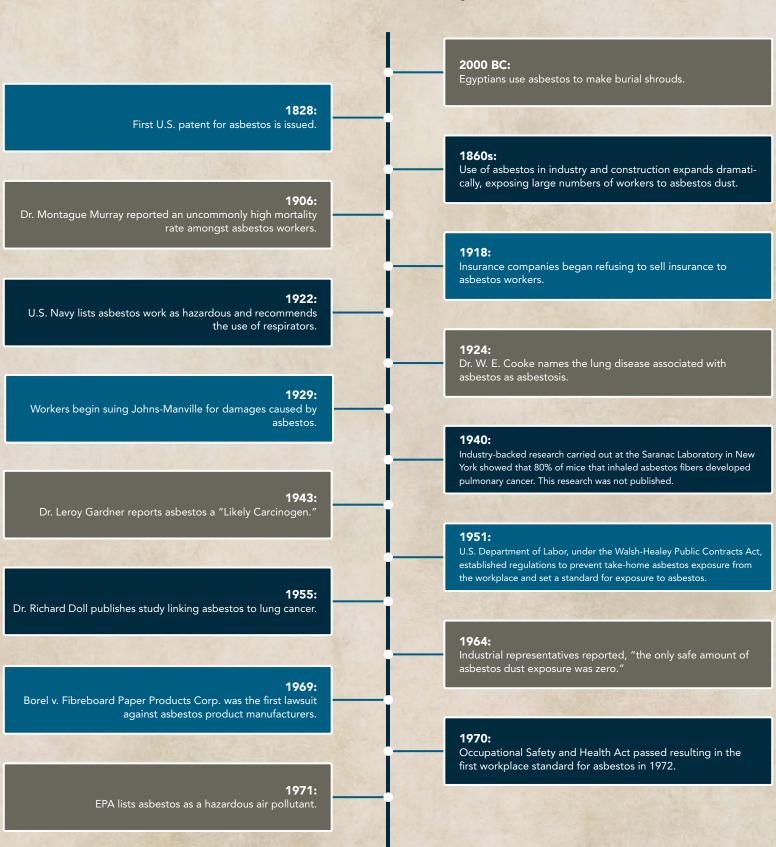


While these six types of asbestos have physical and chemical differences, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the EPA, and the International Agency for Research on Cancer classify all types of asbestos as carcinogens and hazardous to human health.

HISTORY OF ASBESTOS

The word asbestos derives from ancient Greek, meaning "inextinguishable." Asbestos use dates back at least 4,500 years—evidence shows that inhabitants of the Lake Juojärvi region in East Finland strengthened earthenware pots and cooking utensils with the asbestos mineral.

Source: Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization



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OSHA and NIOSH (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health) created the first standard for regulating asbestos exposure. 1973: On appeal, the Borel v. Fibreboard Paper Products Corp. was the first legal case confirming that manufacturers have a duty to warn workers of asbestos dangers. 1976: The International Agency for Research on Cancer list asbestos as a human carcinogen and NIOSH calls for a ban on asbestos in U.S. workplaces. Congress passed The Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976, which gave EPA authority to test and regulate toxic chemicals including asbestos. 1985: EPA Publishes the "Guidance for Controlling Asbestos-Containing Materials in Buildings" and the "Guidance for Prevention Asbestos Disease Among Auto Mechanics." 1989: EPA promulgates Asbestos Ban and Phase-Out Rule which was overruled by the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in 1991. 1991: Manufacturers of asbestos products challenge the EPA in court, leading to the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals overturning the Ban and Phase-Out Rule on asbestos. 1994: Congress enacted Asbestos Bankruptcy Code Section 524(g). The collapse of the World Trade Center towers led to the release of hundreds of tons of asbestos from the towers. 2006: The World Health Organization and the International Labor Organization in a policy paper and a resolution adopted respectively agreed that: all forms of asbestos are classified as human carcinogens, no threshold for "safe" exposure exists, and the elimination of asbestos use is essential to stop the global epidemic of asbestos-related disease. 2010: NIOSH statistics from 2000 to 2010 revealed that 43,464 Americans died from mesothelioma and asbestosis – just two of the asbestos-caused diseases. United States Geological Survey (USGS) reported, "Asbestos consumption in the United States was estimated to be 1,060 tons, based on asbestos imports through July 2012." 2013: USGS reported, "Asbestos consumption in the United States was estimated to be 950 tons, based on asbestos imports through July 2013." 2014: USGS reported, "Asbestos consumption in the United States was estimated to be 400 tons, based on asbestos imports through July 2014." 2015: USGS reported, "Asbestos consumption in the United States was estimated to be about 360 tons."



If you know someone that has been diagnosed with an asbestos disease, O'Brien Law Firm will provide them a full case evaluation at no cost or obligation. Contact us today.

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