

Fact Sheet – Asbestos Related Diseases

About asbestos related disease

The use of asbestos, a naturally occurring mineral, has been banned in the UK for many years.

There are 3 different types of asbestos:

1. Blue Asbestos (Crocidolite). This was used extensively in the textile industry and was banned in the UK in 1985
2. Brown Asbestos (Amosite). This was commonly used for insulation in a wide variety of industries and was also banned in the UK in 1985.
3. White Asbestos (Chrysotile). This was used frequently in the textile and construction industries and was only banned in the UK in 1999.

Asbestos was frequently used in a wide range of industries as it is non-flammable, flexible, low heat-conducting and virtually indestructible. It is however, only in recent years that the dangers of asbestos exposure have been recognised.

Asbestos is made of millions of separate fibres, which if inhaled, can lead to many diseases some of which are fatal. Thousands die each year from Mesothelioma and asbestos related cancers. All are agreed that the number of deaths from asbestos related conditions will rise each year and estimates show that in the early years of the millennium we can expect 10-15 thousand such deaths making asbestos far and away the biggest industrial killer ever.

Symptoms of asbestos related diseases develop several years after exposure to asbestos fibres. If you have ever worked with asbestos you may be affected by an asbestos related disease. Your family may also be at risk as a result of asbestos fibres that you may have inadvertently 'taken home' on your clothes, overalls and on your body.

Types of asbestos related disease

Trade Union solicitors are legal experts experienced in dealing with all types of asbestos related diseases, including [asbestosis](#), [Lung cancer](#), [Mesothelioma](#), [Pleural Plaques](#) and [Pleural Thickening](#).

Unions are expert in dealing with asbestos related disease

Your trade union will have a law firm including industrial disease and occupational illness solicitors who specialise in advice and representation for victims and families of victims who have suffered or are suffering from asbestos related diseases.

Union solicitors are dedicated to ensuring that you receive the maximum amount of compensation in order to improve the quality of life for yourself and your family.

It is important that specialist legal help is obtained at an early stage. The law in this area is extremely complicated.

Asbestos related disease claim advice

Asbestos related diseases can lie dormant in the body for many years and therefore it can take years from when a person is exposed to asbestos until they first suffer symptoms. As with many diseases the sooner the condition is diagnosed, the better the illness can be treated or monitored.

There can be difficulties in finding the employers who exposed a worker to asbestos. The employer may have gone out of business years ago but if their insurers can be traced it is viable to resurrect a limited company employer to allow the claim to proceed. Specialist legal advice should therefore be sought as soon as possible.

Like all personal injury claims, there are strict time limits on making a claim. Please contact your trade union today.