

Understanding asbestos-related illnesses

Most Minnesota residents have likely heard of asbestos but may not necessarily know really what it is. Commonly utilized in several construction, automotive or industrial applications over a long period of time, asbestos has been the cause of many work-related illnesses. Employees who have suffered from diseases related to asbestos do not have minor issues but often very major health concerns to contend with.

[WebMD.com](https://www.webmd.com) explains that asbestos is not really just one thing but rather a grouping of different microscopic fibers known and originally prized for their strength and resistance to chemical breakdowns and heat. These qualities made them ideal for use in a myriad of industries. However, over time, it became known that these same characteristics in some form made asbestos harmful to humans.

According to [mesothelioma.com](https://www.mesothelioma.com), not only are asbestos fibers easy to ingest due to their tiny size but they do not pass through a person's system. Instead, they attach commonly in the respiratory tract and lungs. Over time, the presence of these asbestos fibers can lead to serious and even life-threatening diseases. Mesothelioma is itself a form of lung cancer and is perhaps one of the diseases most commonly associated with asbestos.

When identifying if the development of a condition was due to asbestos exposure, several factors are considered. These include any pre-existing health conditions or risks that a person may have had such as being a long-term smoker. The type of asbestos fibers to which a person was exposed and the duration over which exposure occurred may also significant contributors to a final diagnoses.