

ASBESTOS BY THE NUMBERS

Every year, an estimated 107,000 people around the world die from asbestos.



Over **55+** countries have now banned **Asbestos**

Historically, Canada was one of the world's largest producers of **Asbestos**

In December 2016, Canada announced a comprehensive ban on Asbestos to be implemented in 2018.

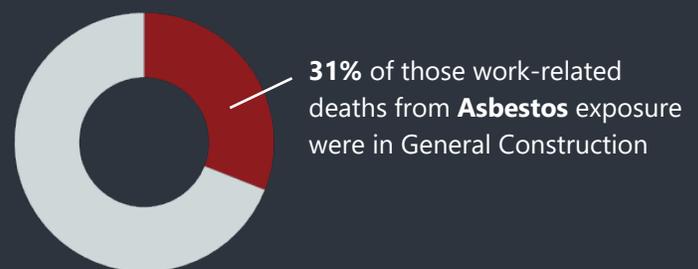
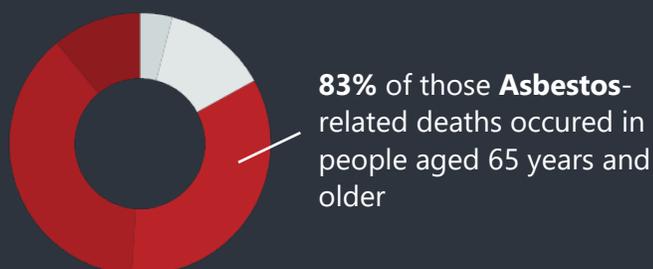
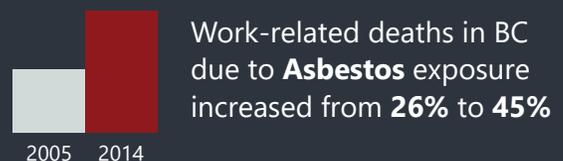
Asbestos is the **#1** Workplace Killer in Canada with at least **10,000** people dying from **Asbestos** exposure between 2006 and 2016

240,000 homes across Canada were insulated with **Asbestos**-Containing Vermiculite stretching from the 1920s to the 1990s



As of 2013, it was estimated that about 152,000 Canadian workers were still being exposed to Asbestos.

The latency period for **Asbestos** is **20 to 40** years meaning symptoms don't present themselves until decades after exposure



*Asbestos exposures typically occur during demolition and renovation work in residential properties and commercial buildings.



ASBESTOS-RELATED DISEASES

Asbestos is only considered a health risk when the fibres are inhaled over an extended period of time. One time exposure to asbestos is unlikely to cause illness. Conditions that develop as a result of asbestos often develop several years after the long-term, high-level exposure.

According to Health Canada, health risks caused by asbestos depend on the:

- Concentration of fibres in the air
- Length of exposure time
- Frequency of exposure
- Size of fibres inhaled
- Amount of time since first exposure

Asbestos fibres are microscopic (roughly .02, the diameter of a human hair), which make it easily inhaled. Once inhaled, the fibres cling to the respiratory system, including the lining of the lungs and inner cavity tissue. Asbestos can cause lung cancer, asbestosis, and mesothelioma.

Lung Cancer

Even though asbestos is only responsible for a small portion of all lung cancer diagnoses, lung cancer is still one of the most fatal asbestos-related malignancies. Like mesothelioma, lung cancer is most common in people who were exposed to large quantities of asbestos for a prolonged period of time. Asbestos-exposed smokers also have an a dramatic increased risk of developing small cell or non-small cell lung cancer above and beyond the risk of lung cancer in smokers who have not been exposed to asbestos.

Asbestosis

Asbestosis is a benign yet potentially deadly lung disease that is characterized by severe scarring and inflammation of lung tissue. It prevents the lungs from expanding and relaxing normally, leading to symptoms such as shortness of breath and tightness in the chest. Even though it is benign, asbestosis can be extremely serious.

Mesothelioma

With asbestos exposure responsible for 70 to 80 percent of all cases, mesothelioma is the signature asbestos-related cancer. It is also one of the most deadly asbestos-related diseases, causing more than 3,000 deaths each year in the United States alone. On average, the prognosis is less than one year from the time of diagnosis.

The cancer is named after the mesothelium, the thin protective lining where the tumors develop. It can appear on the lining of the lungs, stomach, heart or testicles – known respectively as pleural mesothelioma, peritoneal mesothelioma, pericardial mesothelioma and testicular mesothelioma. Each type of mesothelioma is associated with a unique set of symptoms, but chest or abdominal pain and shortness of breath affect most patients, regardless of their specific diagnosis.

