



WHAT IS ASBESTOS?

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral fiber that was widely used in construction due to its strength, resistance to chemicals, non-combustibility and thermal properties. Once considered a “magic mineral”, asbestos is now known to be a dangerous carcinogen and its use is banned in most industrialized nations.

WHY IS ASBESTOS DANGEROUS

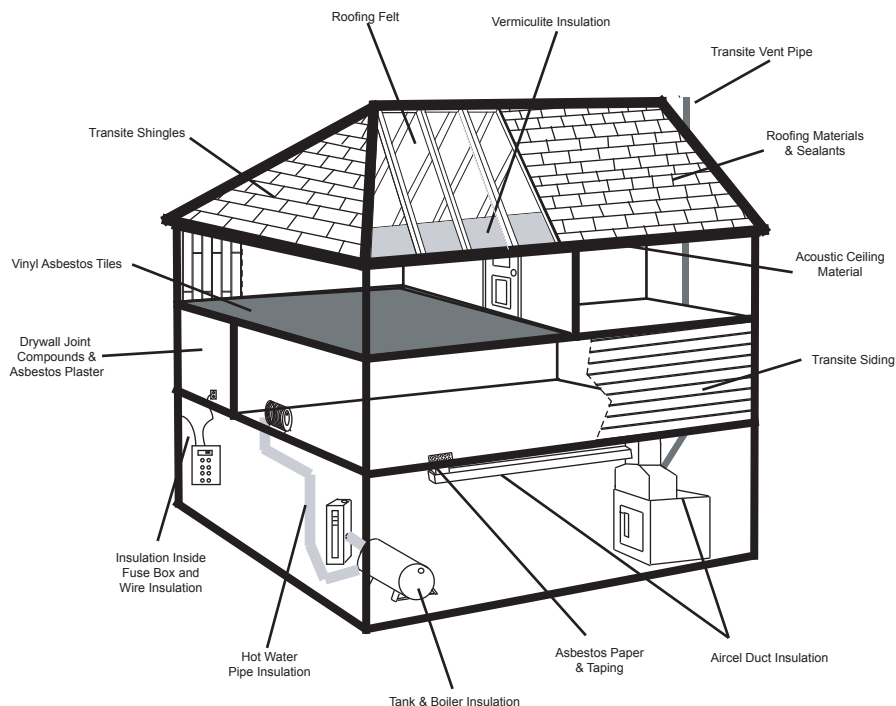
Asbestos containing materials become dangerous when they are disturbed or when they disintegrate. As the crystalline structure of the asbestos containing material breaks down, millions of microscopic fibers become airborne and are inhaled. Over time, exposure to the asbestos fibers can cause a variety of serious conditions including asbestosis, mesothelioma and lung cancer.

ASBESTOS AND YOUR HOME

Generally, only homes built before 1985 are likely to contain asbestos materials. Due to the minute nature of the fibers, asbestos can only be identified under the microscope. Experienced experts such as home inspectors and environmental consultants can visually identify suspect materials, take samples and submit them to a laboratory.

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR FAMILY

If you have asbestos in your home, it should be removed if it is damaged or is likely to be disturbed during renovations or repairs. Furthermore, asbestos containing materials should be removed prior to the sale of the home in order to avoid delays in closing. Asbestos removal can be dangerous, use an experienced environmental contractor.



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