

Asbestos

June 24, 2020

What is it?

Asbestos is a group of six naturally occurring fibrous minerals (silicate) composed of thin, needle-like fibers those are **resistant to heat, electricity and corrosion**. These qualities make the mineral useful, but they also make asbestos exposure **highly toxic**.

Six types of Asbestos are: These six types of asbestos that fall into two categories: **Amphibole and serpentine;**

1. **Amphibole Asbestos:** Amphibole asbestos fibers have a straight, jagged shape. There are five recognized types:
 - Crocidolite
 - Amosite
 - Anthophyllite
 - Tremolite
 - Actinolite
2. **Serpentine:** Serpentine asbestos fibers are curly. There is only one kind: Chrysotile, which is also known as "white asbestos."
 - Chrysotile

What are the health effects of it?

- Asbestos is a group of six naturally occurring fibrous minerals composed of thin, needle-like fibers
- When someone inhales or ingests asbestos dust, some of the mineral fibers can become forever trapped in their body.
- Over a period of time, **trapped asbestos fibers can cause inflammation**, scarring and eventually **genetic damage**.
- **A rare and aggressive cancer called mesothelioma is almost exclusively caused by asbestos**
- The mineral also causes asbestos-related lung cancer,

ovarian cancer and laryngeal cancer.