

Asbestos and the danger to children

The following article was written by a contact of mine in the US. He is a lung cancer survivor, and his illness was related to asbestos. What we normally call asbestosis.

This is something we all need to be aware of and is worth reading and sharing. INFORMATION: The three types of **asbestos**-related **lung disease** are scarring (**asbestosis**), non-cancerous **disease** of the tissue of the lining of the surface of the **lung** (pleural **disease**), and **lung** cancer (of the **lungs** or their outer lining tissue [mesothelioma]).

In Honor of Every Kid Healthy Week: The Dangers of Asbestos for Children

Many commercials and other advertisements have made the connection between mesothelioma and asbestos in adult patients. These mature people were exposed to asbestos across many years in workplace situations, such as military periods. However, not much information has been offered when it comes to children and asbestos exposure. There's a dangerous connection between children and this hazardous substance. Learn more about possible exposure and vulnerabilities in order to protect every child from illness.

What is Asbestos?

Parents must be aware of what asbestos is in the first place. This substance is found naturally in the environment. It's a collection of fibers that can be used for buildings, ships and airplanes. Asbestos was widely known as a heat-resistant material with a low cost in the past. It was quickly installed in workplaces across the world as a result.

These fibers can break apart over time. The fibers and residual powder will quickly enter the lungs of anyone nearby. The asbestos remains in the respiratory pathways until it mutates cells over time. Cancer in the form of mesothelioma is directly related to asbestos exposure.

Possible Exposure Points

Children aren't exposed to asbestos in the conventional sense. In most cases, children become vulnerable when a parent brings the asbestos home in their hair, clothes or shoes. Young children who play on the floor will inhale more asbestos fibers than their older siblings.

Because the parent brings the fibers home on a daily basis, the children are constantly enveloped by the asbestos. Any friends who play at the home will also be impacted.

Mesothelioma Development

The link between asbestos and mesothelioma took some time to develop. A child can be exposed to asbestos before he or she is 10 years old. Being diagnosed with cancer, however, takes several decades. The damage has been done over many years. The parent may not realize their involvement until the child is a teenager or young adult. For these reasons, asbestos exposure is particularly serious for young children.

Exposure Through Rare Situations

There is a lot of [mesothelioma information](#) regarding basic exposure points. Parents may be more concerned about some of the rarer situations that result in asbestos exposure.

Several crayon companies used asbestos in their products. This fact was discovered as recently as 2015. The companies believed that the production process minimized any exposure possibilities. Asbestos has been ultimately banned from these childhood writing utensils, but some children have yet to find out if they've been scarred by any cellular mutations.

Another rare situation involves old, asbestos factories. Some [children in England](#) have actually played near closed factories. The asbestos was still on the ground surrounding the building, however. As a result, these children have a higher chance of developing mesothelioma or other cancers in the future.

The best way for parents to protect their children is through careful observation through the years. Be aware of the child's surroundings and playthings. Ask questions when there's any concern about a facility or toy. Those precautions can shield children from asbestos, which may lead to a healthy life well into the senior years. For more information on children and asbestos, please refer to some of the links above, or visit the EPA's website to learn about the dangers of asbestos.

NB: the [EPA](#) is the United States Department for Environmental Health

I hope this has been of interest... Diane