



What is asbestos?

- Asbestos is a mineral found in nature.
- It is usually white or grey in color.
- It can look like cardboard, cotton, plaster or clay. It can also be inside certain products.
- It is made up of tiny, needle-like fibers that you cannot see.



Where is asbestos found?

- Asbestos is a good insulator that was used in many products as recently as 1989, and is still in some today.
- Common places where you might find asbestos include pipe and boiler insulation, shingles, floor tiles, roofing, and certain adhesives.

How do I know if my home has asbestos?

- **DO NOT** touch anything you think contains asbestos.
- If you are concerned that something is an asbestos hazard, call **617-534-5965** to request an inspection.



Can asbestos cause health problems?

Yes. When asbestos is damaged or disturbed, you can breathe the tiny fibers into your lungs.

- Asbestos can cause diseases like lung cancer and scarring in the lungs, called asbestosis.
- After you have been exposed to asbestos, it can take many years for a disease to develop.
- If you have been exposed to asbestos, smoking increases your risk of cancer.

My home has asbestos. What should I do?

- **DO NOT** touch it. **DO NOT** try to remove it yourself.
- If it is **not** damaged (also called 'intact'), you can leave it alone or hire a contractor to remove it.
- If it is damaged or disturbed, hire a licensed asbestos contractor to remove it. To find a licensed contractor, visit www.state.ma.us/dos/.
- Your contractor must get a permit from BPHC. Ask for a copy of this permit for your records.
- Unlicensed asbestos removal is illegal. It is dangerous for your health and expensive to clean up.

