



The Health Risks of Asbestos

By Samantha Walters



Introduction

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- What is Asbestos?
 - What are the health risks?
 - Who is affected?
 - What are the health promotions within wales?
 - What are the health preventions within wales?



What is Asbestos?

- Asbestos is a naturally occurring fibrous silicate mineral
- Three different types used in United Kingdom (UK)
- All composed of long and thin fibrous crystals

(Asthma + Lung UK, 2022)





What are the health risks of Asbestos?

- Inhalation of asbestos fibres can lead to various dangerous and fatal lung conditions such as:
- Mesothelioma
- Asbestosis
- Asbestos-related lung cancer
- Pleural thickening

(Asthma + Lung UK, 2022)



Who is affected by Mesothelioma?

According to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Diseases Registry, an estimated 27 million workers were exposed to asbestos between 1940 and 1979, that could be at risk of developing mesothelioma.

The top at-risk occupations are:

- Construction Worker
- Firefighters
- Industrial Worker
- Power Plant Worker
- Shipyard Worker

(Asbestos.com, 2022)



The health promotions and preventions within Wales

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- Asbestos is now banned in the UK
 - The control of Asbestos Regulations 2012 states any work involving asbestos must be undertaken by a licensed person by the health and safety executive.
 - All workplaces must follow laws to protect the health and safety of all colleagues



Conclusion

According to the Health and Safety Executive all relevant workplaces must follow these necessary steps:

- Identify whether asbestos is present and determine its type and condition
- Carry out a risk assessment
- Decide if the work needs to be carried out by a licensed contractor
- Ensure those carrying out the work are suitably trained

The mortality rate associated with asbestos should significantly reduce due to the ban of asbestos and the constant health and safety training carried out by occupational workplaces.

(Health and Safety Executive, 2022)

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