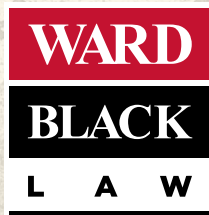


HOW

# ASBESTOS EXPOSURE ALTERS LIVES

*& What You Can Do About It*



A RESOURCE FROM WARD BLACK LAW

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# UNDERSTANDING ASBESTOS

What is  
asbestos?

A group of six highly durable minerals that are fireproof, resistant to chemicals, and do not conduct electricity.

INDESTRUCTIBLE

Because asbestos is fireproof and durable, it was used to strengthen and insulate products such as pipe, tile, block, plastics, and equipment across many different industries prior to the 1980s.

INVISIBLE

Asbestos fibers cannot be seen. They are also odorless and tasteless. When someone handles a product containing asbestos, the fibers separate into tiny pieces. This is where the health hazards begin.

HAZARDOUS

Breathing in asbestos fibers allows them to settle in your lungs. The build-up can cause long-term health problems. We'll expand on those on page 7.

Asbestos is

# COMMON EXPOSURE SITES

Millions of people have been exposed to asbestos. Those with the highest levels of exposure typically worked directly with asbestos in industries such as:



## Construction

From fireproofing and insulation, to strengthening shingles and siding, many construction workers handled asbestos daily prior to the 1980s.



## Power Plants

Former power plant employees face significant risk because high-temperature piping and equipment were insulated with asbestos.



## Large Manufacturing Facilities

Former manufacturing plant employees also face significant risk since their work environments were often insulated, fireproofed, and packed with asbestos materials.



## Shipbuilding

Shipyards workers (both commercial and military) often worked with asbestos in areas with very little ventilation, increasing their risks.



## Automotive

Many types of brakes, clutches, gaskets, and other parts were manufactured using asbestos for heat resistance and durability.



## Railroad

Railroad workers, especially those who worked around steam engines, likely came in contact with asbestos dust.



## Oil

Working in an oil refinery comes with significant risks; however, many workers were unaware that the equipment, products, and insulation around them contained asbestos.



## Mining

Before the dangers of asbestos were widely known, miners were responsible for collecting asbestos daily to be used in the industries above.



# Exposure Sites In North Carolina



**Please note:**

*Asbestos exposure has been documented in job sites all throughout North Carolina. This is not an exhaustive list. Ward Black Law has helped former employees of the following companies, and many other companies across the state.*

**American Thread Co., Inc.  
DuPont Plants**

BREVARD, NC/WILMINGTON, NC/  
ROCK HILL, SC

**American Tobacco Plant**

REIDSVILLE, NC

**Burlington Industries Doyle  
St. Plant / Burlington Formed  
Fabrics**

GREENSBORO, NC

**Burlington Industries  
Enterprise Plant**

GREENSBORO, NC

**Burlington Industries  
Greensboro Finishing Plant**

GREENSBORO, NC

**Cannon Mills**

CONCORD, NC

**Cannon Mills**

KANNAPOLIS, NC

**Carolina Container  
Corporation**

HIGH POINT, NC

**Carolina Paperboard Corp.  
Plant**

CHARLOTTE, NC

**Champion Paper**

CANTON, NC

**Celanese Experimental Plant/  
Lab**

CHARLOTTE, NC

**Cone Mills Proximity Mill**

GREENSBORO, NC

**Cone Mills Revolution Mill**

GREENSBORO, NC

**Cone Mills White Oak Mill**

GREENSBORO, NC

**Dayco**

WAYNESVILLE, NC

**Duke Power Allen Steam  
Plant**

BELMONT, NC

**Duke Power Belews Creek  
Steam Plant**

WALNUT COVE, NC

**Duke Power Buck Steam  
Plant**

SPENCER/SALISBURY, NC

**Duke Power Cowan's Ford  
Hydro Plant**

HUNTERSVILLE, NC

**Duke Power Marshall Steam  
Plant**

TERRELL/CATAWBA, NC

**Duke Power McGuire Nuclear  
Plant**

COWAN'S FORD, NC

**Duke Power Riverbend Steam  
Plant**

MOUNT HOLLY, NC

**Ecusta Paper Mill**

BREVARD, NC

**Fiber Industries / Hoechst  
Fibers / Hoechst Celanese**

SALISBURY/FIBERTON, NC/SHELBY, NC

**H.K. Porter/Southern  
Asbestos (Thermoid Division)**

CHARLOTTE, NC

**Miller Brewery**

EDEN, NC

**Pittsburgh Plate Glass / PPG**

LEXINGTON, NC/SHELBY, NC

**R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Plant**

WINSTON-SALEM, NC

**Schlitz / Stroh's Brewery Can  
Plant**

WINSTON-SALEM, NC

**Southern Dye/Sodyeco/  
Sandoz/Martin Marietta/  
Clariant Plant #32**

MOUNT HOLLY, NC

**Union Carbide Eveready Plant**

CHARLOTTE, NC

**Western Electric /AT&T**

WINSTON-SALEM, NC

**Western Electric/AT&T Plant**

BURLINGTON, NC

**Westinghouse Turbine Plant /  
Westinghouse "Bomb" Plant**

CHARLOTTE, NC

**Weyerhaeuser Plants**

PLYMOUTH NC/NEW BERN, NC

# WHO FACES THE HIGHEST RISK OF HEALTH ISSUES FROM ASBESTOS?

## HIGHEST *Risk*

Workers who were responsible for mining and/or manufacturing raw asbestos and faced chronic asbestos contact over a long period of time.

## MODERATE *Risk*

Men and women in professions where asbestos-containing products were handled daily, or were in their work areas. Construction trades such as insulators, pipe fitters, mechanics, carpenters, and electricians, among others, were heavily exposed to asbestos, especially before 1980.

## SOME *Risk*

Spouses/family members who had contact with asbestos dust from workers' clothing, or those who may simply be exposed environmentally in aging homes and buildings with loosened asbestos fibers.



# EARLY SIGNS OF HEALTH PROBLEMS

Unfortunately, most people do not experience symptoms until many years after exposure to asbestos. Some have early warning signs but dismiss them as common ailments. Others are misdiagnosed by their healthcare providers.

**This is why it is important to know your level of risk and seek help from a doctor in diagnosing asbestos disease if you experience any of the following symptoms:**

## *Sounds like COPD?*

*Asbestos-related diseases may share symptoms with COPD, a group of chronic inflammatory lung diseases. However, COPD is not caused by asbestos exposure. This is a common misconception. COPD can be caused by smoking and has a different appearance than asbestos disease on chest x-rays.*

- ☐ Shortness of breath
- ☐ Chest pain
- ☐ Persistent dry cough
- ☐ Trouble breathing
- ☐ Coughing up blood
- ☐ Fatigue
- ☐ Weight loss
- ☐ Fevers and/or night sweats

Symptoms depend largely on which disease you have and the extent to which it has damaged your lungs. Read on to learn more about the three most common asbestos-related diseases.

# ASBESTOS RELATED DISEASES

*Mesothelioma*

*Asbestosis*

*Asbestos-Related Cancers*



# MESOTHELIOMA

A rare cancer that develops in the lining, or mesothelium, of internal organs, including the lungs, stomach, or heart.

## QUICK FACTS



3,000

cases diagnosed in  
the U.S. annually

49

YEARS OLD

Average age of  
diagnosis

## 3

### *Different Forms of Mesothelioma*

#### **Pleural Mesothelioma**

The most common form, accounting for approximately 70% of all those afflicted. Occurs in the “pleura,” or the lining over the lungs.

##### **Symptoms may include:**

- Shortness of breath
- Chest pain
- Fluid build-up in the chest

#### **Peritoneal Mesothelioma**

Occurs in the “peritoneum,” or the lining of the abdominal cavity.

##### **Symptoms may include:**

- Abdominal pain
- Abdominal swelling
- Bowel obstruction

#### **Pericardial Mesothelioma**

Occurs in the “pericardium,” or the lining of the heart.

##### **Symptoms may include:**

- Chest pain
- Cardiac problems such as arrhythmia, murmurs, and palpitations
- Fluid buildup in the heart

# MESOTHELIOMA



## *Risk Factors*

- **Working in an asbestos mine or plant**
- **Working in industries where asbestos was routinely used**
- **Living near an asbestos mine**
- **Disturbing asbestos products during home repairs**
- **Living with someone who worked around asbestos**

## ***Can smoking cause mesothelioma?***

No; however, smokers who are exposed to asbestos are much more likely to develop an asbestos-related cancer.

## ***How does mesothelioma develop?***

When a person breathes in asbestos fibers, the body cannot exhale them all. Over time, they can build up and lead to genetic changes that become cancer.

## ***How can I prevent mesothelioma?***

The best way to prevent mesothelioma is to avoid exposing yourself to asbestos. While exposure in the workplace is less likely today than it was a few decades ago, products containing asbestos may still exist in our homes and offices. Be sure to take proper precautions or hire a professional when completing home renovations or doing any project that may disturb dormant asbestos fibers.

*If you think you may have been exposed to asbestos on a regular basis in years past, don't wait for symptoms to show up! Discuss with a doctor now. Early scans and regular monitoring can give you the best opportunity for a good outcome.*

## TREATMENT OPTIONS

### ***Surgery***

Surgery can help remove tumors, alleviate symptoms, or provide a clearer diagnosis. It is usually the first-line treatment for individuals with mesothelioma.

### ***Chemotherapy & Radiation***

Many patients opt to undergo chemotherapy and radiation to kill cancer cells or slow tumor growth.

### ***Clinical Trials***

There are several new treatment options available, including drugs, therapies, and other innovative options. Some patients are able to improve their outcomes by participating in clinical trials.



# ASBESTOSIS

*A chronic lung disease causing scarring of lung tissue.*

## QUICK FACTS



**HUNDREDS OF  
THOUSANDS**

*of people in the U.S.  
have been diagnosed*



**ELEVATES  
RISK**

*for asbestos-related  
cancer*

## ***Is asbestosis cancer?***

No. Many people believe asbestosis is a type of cancer because asbestos exposure has the potential to cause cancers such as mesothelioma. While asbestosis is also caused by asbestos exposure, it is not cancer, but rather a type of scarring of the lung tissue.

## ***Can it turn into cancer?***

No, asbestosis itself won't turn into cancer; however, those who are diagnosed with asbestosis should be aware that their risk of developing asbestos-related cancer is higher and should be monitored regularly.

## ***Is there a cure?***

There isn't currently a cure for asbestosis. Treatment options help manage the disease and enhance the patient's quality of life.

## ***How long can it take after exposure before asbestosis is diagnosed?***

Asbestosis has a latency period of 20-30 years. This can vary based on the nature of the exposure; however, in the vast majority of cases, the disease does not cause symptoms until decades after the initial exposure to asbestos.

# ASBESTOSIS

## *Early Symptoms Can Include:*

- **Chest pain**
- **Chronic cough**
- **Shortness of breath**
- **Fatigue**
- **Weight loss**

## *Advanced Symptoms Can Include:*

- **A crackling sound in the lungs**
- **Need for oxygen**
- **Changes in thickness of the skin**

## TREATMENT OPTIONS

### **Improving Lifestyle Habits**

Healthy habits — exercise, good sleep, a balanced diet, and avoiding smoking — are important to manage asbestosis.

### **Medications**

Prescription medications can often make breathing easier.

### **Oxygen**

Some patients with asbestosis use supplemental oxygen to help with daily activities.



# OTHER ASBESTOS-RELATED CANCERS

*Asbestos exposure can cause several additional types of cancer, including colon, esophageal, and laryngeal cancers.*

## QUICK FACTS



Unlike mesothelioma and lung cancer, some asbestos-related cancers are not caused by breathing in asbestos fibers.



People often swallow asbestos fibers without knowing it since the fibers are invisible, tasteless, and odorless. Asbestos can travel down the digestive tract and cause cancers of the esophagus, larynx, and colon.

*Symptoms vary based on the type of cancer, but may include:*

- Chest or abdominal pain
- Shortness of breath
- Abdominal swelling
- Digestive changes
- Appetite changes
- Coughing up blood
- Passing blood in stool

# COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT ASBESTOS-RELATED CANCERS

## ***Can I know my cancer was caused by asbestos?***

There are several tests available that allow medical professionals to evaluate whether asbestos fibers are to blame. These including imaging tests and tissue biopsies.

## ***I smoked and have lung cancer. Can I still get compensation for my asbestos exposure?***

Often times, yes. It may lessen the value of settlements you would receive, but it does not automatically disqualify you.

## ..... TREATMENT OPTIONS .....

### ***Surgery***

Surgical procedures may help remove tumors and nearby cancerous tissue.

### ***Radiation Therapy***

Radiation therapy can stop the division of cancerous cells and often reduces the size of tumors.

### ***Additional treatment options may be available.***

Your doctor will consider any preexisting conditions, as well as the extent of your cancer, before deciding which strategies would work best for you.

### ***Chemotherapy***

Chemotherapy may be given intravenously or in pill form and can help kill cancer cells.

### ***Photodynamic Therapy***

Often used to treat lung cancer, this type of treatment uses drugs called photosensitizing agents along with light to target and kill cancer cells.



# THE COSTS

Paying for treatment of an asbestos-related disease, especially cancer, can be very difficult. It is important to be aware of the potential costs to plan for the road ahead.

## **Medical Treatments**

Major medical treatments, such as surgeries, chemotherapy and radiation, can cost thousands.

## **Lost Wages**

Both the patient and caregiver may sacrifice earnings or have to stop working entirely during seasons of intensive treatment.

## **Travel**

Many patients, especially those with mesothelioma, travel great distances to see doctors who specialize in their disease. This can be costly in itself.

## **Alternative Therapies**

Alternative therapies may be effective for some patients, but they are not always covered by insurance.

## **Quality of Life**

Of course, no dollar amount can be assigned to the diminished quality of life patients with asbestos disease experience.



# SEEKING LEGAL HELP

When you or someone you love is diagnosed with an asbestos-related disease, finding the right lawyer to partner with you is key. You may be eligible for compensation from a number of sources to help minimize the financial burden of your condition. While nothing can take away the physical and emotional costs, knowing that an experienced attorney is in your corner provides peace of mind and gives you the best chance of obtaining funds.

## **Why You May Be Entitled to Compensation**

- Doctors linked asbestos to health problems in the early 1900s.
- By the 1920s, manufacturers knew it was a dangerous product; however, they continued to produce, distribute and supply asbestos-containing products.
- In the 1970s, the U.S. government finally began limiting its use.
- In 2002, the last asbestos mine closed in the United States.
- Asbestos is still being used in the U.S.
- While it is no longer widely used, patients continue to be diagnosed with asbestos-related diseases due to long latency periods.
- Parties who knowingly exposed workers to asbestos must be held accountable for the damage they inflicted on so many lives.



***Time to file a claim is limited, typically only 1-3 years from your time of diagnosis.***

*Contact us for details.*



# WHY CHOOSE WARD BLACK LAW?

Ward Black Law is committed to excellence, innovation, and integrity. Numerous awards and recognitions highlight our commitment to clients and their successful case outcomes. We are passionate about our community, our state of North Carolina, and the people who come through our doors in need of a powerful voice.



- **Successful representation** of more than 1,000 people in North Carolina with asbestos diseases
- **25 plus years of experience** settling and litigating claims for asbestos diseases, including various cancers
- **Experienced** asbestos claim staff only a phone call or email away
- **Compassionate, proactive attorneys** to walk alongside your family
- You will never have to write a check for attorney fees or costs - **we are paid only a percentage of your settlement**
- If you don't receive a settlement, **you won't pay us anything**



# MEET JANET WARD BLACK



## Janet Ward Black

*Personal Injury Attorney*

Janet Ward Black is a distinguished personal injury attorney and the principal owner of Ward Black Law — one of the largest woman-owned firms in North Carolina. For more than two decades, Black has walked alongside families affected by mesothelioma and other asbestos-related diseases, working tirelessly to help them receive compensation. Her powerful voice has helped collect millions of dollars for North Carolinians with asbestos disease.

*Janet Ward Black has been named to the “Best Lawyers in America” list by U.S. News & World Report every year since 2005 and has the highest rating possible for legal ability and ethical standards from Martindale-Hubbell. She is a compassionate, trustworthy advocate for families whose lives are altered by unexpected events.*





# WHAT TO EXPECT

## *The Process for Asbestos Disease Claims*

1

### Initial Consultation

You or a family member can call or come to our office for a one-on-one conversation about your options, or we will come to you. We'll talk about where you've worked and other places you could have been exposed to asbestos.

2

### Research

Ward Black Law attorneys and staff will begin working diligently on your case, researching your history and medical information, and working to find all companies that may be responsible for your disease.

3

### Claims

We will then start filing claims for you. We handle all of the paperwork so you don't have to.

4

### Negotiation

If we are able to get settlements for you, you will have the opportunity to choose whether to accept or not.



Contact us today.

*We will talk to you or a family member  
about your options at no charge.*



**800.531.9191** [wardblacklaw.com](http://wardblacklaw.com)

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