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# ASBESTOS: WHAT IS IT?

What Would Cosmo Do?

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***Cosmo knows the hazards of asbestos***

## **What is Asbestos?**

**Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral fiber.**

It was used in numerous building materials and vehicle products for its unique properties. Individual asbestos fibers cannot be seen by the naked eye, and are hazardous if disturbed and inhaled. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has regulations to protect workers from the hazards of asbestos.



## **What is the Hazard?**

Asbestos is a proven human carcinogen and can cause chronic lung disease as well as lung and other cancers. Symptoms and/or cancer may take many years to develop following exposure.

Asbestos was used in about 3,000 different building and industrial products. Both BYU as well as state and federal laws require that any suspect materials that may contain asbestos be inspected prior to being disturbed.



## **BYU Policy**

It is the policy of BYU that employees do not disturb suspect asbestos materials. Risk Management should be contacted to determine if a material contains asbestos. Risk Management will coordinate the removal of asbestos materials using state licensed asbestos contractors as necessary.



**Currently about 125 million people in the world are exposed to asbestos at the workplace**

[https://www.who.int/ipcs/assessment/public\\_health/asbestos/en/](https://www.who.int/ipcs/assessment/public_health/asbestos/en/)

**29 CFR 1910.1001**



***Safety Is Everyone's  
Responsibility***

**BYU**

**Risk Management and Safety**

**RMB | 801-422-4468**