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## **Mesothelioma and Environmental Concerns of Asbestos**

[Mesothelioma](#) is a rare form of cancer almost exclusively caused by asbestos exposure. The most common form of the cancer is pleural mesothelioma, which develops in the lining of the lungs. Other areas where mesothelioma can develop include the lining of the abdomen (peritoneal mesothelioma) and heart (pericardial mesothelioma), but these types are less likely to develop.

Due to a severe latency period of symptoms ranging between 20 and 50 years from the time of exposure, mesothelioma cancer is often diagnosed in a late stage of development. This tendency for late diagnosis complicates the treatment process and as a result the average mesothelioma life expectancy is four to 18 months. There is no cure for this cancer, but some patients who were diagnosed early enough have survived mesothelioma. For this reason, it is important for anyone exposed to asbestos to seek regular medical exams to check for signs of asbestos disease.

Asbestos, a naturally occurring mineral that was incorporated into more than 5,000 products, was largely utilized before the 1980s for its insulating and fireproofing characteristics. This toxic mineral can be found in various deposits throughout the world and the environmental hazard surrounding asbestos still exists today. Some countries even continue mining and exporting asbestos to developing regions. Careers that have felt the largest impact from mesothelioma cancer include those in the construction, automotive, power plant, chemical plant, manufacturing, electrical and shipyard industries.

The [Mesothelioma Center](#) at Asbestos.com was created to aid patients affected by asbestos-related disease. The center's mission is to educate the public about how to avoid the dangers of asbestos exposure and to assist people who have already been diagnosed with an asbestos-related disease.

For more information please go to: <http://www.asbestos.com/>

Please note that any information contained herein is the responsibility and property of the Mesothelioma Centre.