

# Hazard: Asbestos, Silica and other Manufactured Mineral Fibres

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**Identity of Hazard(s):** Asbestos is a mineral fiber that has been used in a variety of building construction materials for insulation and as a fire retardant because of its fiber strength and heat resistance. These materials include attic and wall insulation produced containing vermiculite, vinyl floor tiles, roofing and siding shingles, textured paint and patching compounds and hot water and steam pipes coated with asbestos material or covered with an asbestos blanket or tape.<sup>1</sup>

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**Primary Health Outcome(s):** Lung Cancer<sup>2</sup>

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**Health Alert!** Asbestos is a known carcinogen, and inhalation of asbestos fibers is known to cause respiratory problems and lung diseases such as: Mesothelioma, Asbestosis, and Lung Cancer.<sup>2</sup>

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## **Gain Control: Actions You Can Take<sup>1</sup>**

- Do leave undamaged asbestos-containing materials alone.
  - Do take every precaution to avoid damaging asbestos-containing material.
  - Do keep activities to a minimum in any areas having damaged material that may contain asbestos.
  - Do have removal and major repair done by people trained and qualified in handling asbestos. It is highly recommended that sampling and minor repair also be done by a trained and accredited asbestos professional.
  - Don't dust, sweep, or vacuum debris that may contain asbestos.
  - Don't saw, sand, scrape, or drill holes in asbestos-containing materials.
  - Don't use abrasive pads or brushes on power strippers to strip wax from asbestos flooring. Never use a power stripper on flooring that may contain asbestos. Don't sand or try to level asbestos flooring or its backing. When asbestos flooring needs replacing install new floor covering over it, if possible.
  - Don't track material that could contain asbestos through the house. If you cannot avoid walking through the area, have it cleaned with a wet mop. If the material is from a damaged area or if a large area must be cleaned, call an asbestos professional.
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## **Local Resources for Detroit Residents:**

- CLEARCorps Detroit: (313) 924-4000
- Detroit Planning and Development Department (CDBG Home Repair Program): (313) 224-3461  
Must have homeowners insurance and be current on property taxes to receive this grant
- The Michigan Medicaid Assistance Program: (800) 803-7174
- For people aged 60 or older, your local Aging office can help you find services. To find your local office, call (517) 886-1305

<sup>1</sup><http://www.epa.gov/asbestos/>

<sup>2</sup><http://www.nchh.org/What-We-Do/Health-Hazards--Prevention--and-Solutions/Asbestos.aspx>