

Asbestos safety

Toolbox Talk



Asbestos/Ceramic wool

Because of its excellent properties as a material (strong, durable, isolating and cheap), asbestos was widely used in buildings until the late twentieth century. In 1993, however, its use was prohibited in the Netherlands. Since then, no products containing asbestos have been manufactured.

But the material can still be found in older buildings and systems. If it is damaged, exposed during renovation or demolition work or affected by fire, asbestos presents a serious danger to human health and the environment.

Asbestos/Ceramic wool

Ceramic wool

At locations exposed to intense heat, such as steam pipes, ceramic wool is usually the only practical substitute for asbestos. But ceramic wool also poses a serious health hazard. Therefore this material is subject to the same working procedures and regulations

Detrimental to the environment

A high concentration of respirable ceramic fibres can be expected when removing old insulation which has been exposed to high temperatures.

Danger: release of microscopic fibres by

- Grinding
- Milling
- Cutting
- Drilling
- Scouring

Asbestos materials



Weathered fibrous asbestos sheeting showing loose fibres



Asbestos steam pipe insulation



Asbestos was used as insulation in early electrical panels

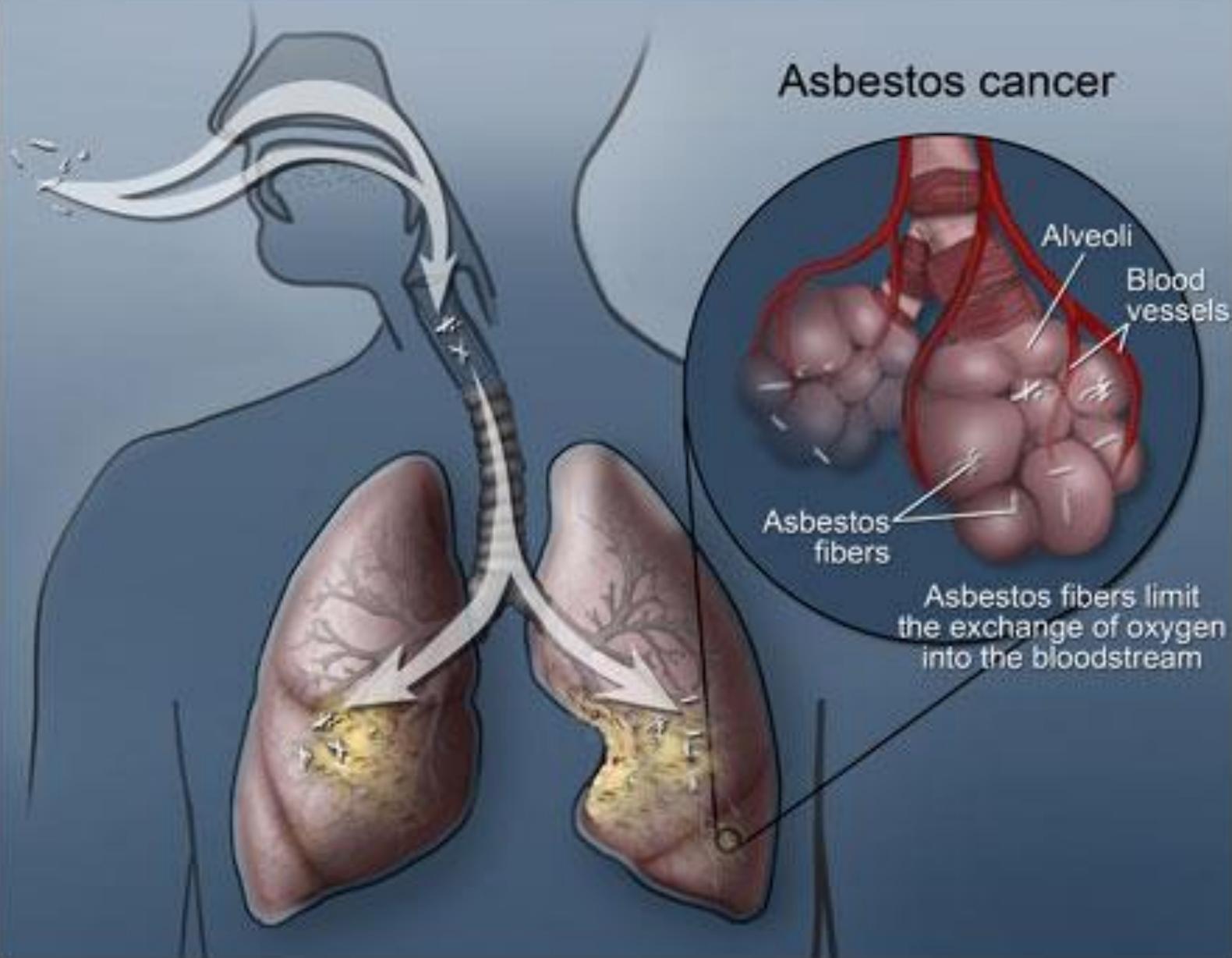


Asbestos in roofing material

Health hazards

- Breathing asbestos fibers can cause a buildup of scar-like tissue in the lungs called asbestosis and result in loss of lung function that often progresses to disability and death.
- Asbestos also causes cancer of the lung and other diseases such as mesothelioma of the pleura which is a fatal malignant tumor of the membrane lining the cavity of the lung or stomach.

Asbestos cancer



Preventing exposure to fibres

In all cases:

- make sure that you stay upwind from the workplace, as far as possible
- when working with these materials use the appropriate PPE
- when finished make sure that absolutely no fibres are left behind and turn off the ventilation
- if fibres are deposited, collect them using a special asbestos vacuum cleaner

Never use an ordinary vacuum cleaner, as this will not pick up the fibres safely.

Preventing exposure to fibres

Removing asbestos or ceramic wool:

Use the correct special PPE:

- a full-face respirator with ABEKHgP3 filter
- disposable overalls
- disposable overshoes
- suitable gloves

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- *Asbestos Handling What you Should know, Cyprus DLI*
- *Asbestos Awareness for building Occupants and Maintenance Workers, York university*
- *Asbestos Fact Sheet 51*
- *Asbestos Toolbox talk Malone Engineering Safety Management*
- *Asbestos Safety Card, NVDO*

ANY QUESTIONS?

***THANKS FOR YOUR
PARTICIPATION!!!***