Prescriptions for Prevention

Asbestos

Did you know?

Asbestos is found in some older buildings (insulation, tiles) and rarely in some consumer products. Breathing in asbestos fibers can lead to cancer years from now.

Action Plan

- If asbestos-containing materials are in good condition and cannot be reached by kids, leave them alone because they're not likely releasing any fibers.
- If asbestos-containing materials are damaged, don't remove them yourself.
- If you are concerned about asbestos in your home, or if asbestos materials are damaged or renovations are planned, hire a certified inspector.
  Scan the QR code or click here for the complete list of PA DEP-certified firms:
- For more information about where to find asbestos containing materials and how to manage them in your home, click here or scan to see a fact sheet produced by the City of Philadelphia:
- Avoid using talc-containing products (talc may be naturally contaminated with asbestos-like fibers).
- If you work with asbestos (construction, demolition, brake repair): Your employer should provide you appropriate training, respirator, and personal protective equipment for use at work. Shower and change clothes/shoes before coming home. Do not wash work clothes with household clothes.
- Don't smoke cigarettes. People who are exposed to asbestos have a much higher risk of lung cancer if they smoke.

Perelman School of Medicine University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia Regional Center for Children's Environmental Health
NIEHS Grant: P2CES033428
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Resources

PA Department of Health

To find out more about the health impacts of asbestos and the existing regulations and what you can do about it, contact the Division of Environmental Health Epidemiology at: 717-787-3350; dehe@pa.gov or click here to view their site.

Asbestos In Homes

For FAQs and more information about asbestos in homes, visit the EPA's website:

American Lung Association

For more information about the signs and symptoms of asbestosis (caused by prolonged exposure to asbestos), visit the ALA website:

2024 PA DEP-Certified Firms

To access the complete list of all PA Department of Environmental Protection certified asbestos abatement companies in Pennsylvania through 2024, scan below or click the link:

Asbestos in Schools

Parents can request a school's Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) plan, which explains how the school addresses asbestos materials in the building. To view AHERA Inspection Reports by school in the Philadelphia School District scan the QR code or click the link above:

For more information on the resources here or other questions, contact the Philadelphia Regional Center for Children's Environmental Health at:
215-573-9076 prcceh@pennmedicine.upenn.edu
Website: prcceh.upenn.edu

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