

Did Your Custodial Occupation Expose You to Asbestos?



Some former custodians, janitors and building maintenance workers may have been exposed to asbestos while carrying out the routine duties of their jobs. Asbestos, a naturally occurring mineral, was regularly used in insulation and other common building materials in many office buildings, public buildings and factories prior to 1980—as well as in school buildings.

- Unfortunately, when asbestos-containing products are disturbed or damaged, tiny, needlelike fibers can be released into the air and inhaled by anyone close by. Inhalation of those asbestos fibers is what causes mesothelioma, a deadly cancer.
- Those who worked in custodial occupations may have been exposed to asbestos in a number of different ways. For example, janitors spend a lot of time in the basements of buildings where asbestos was used in pipe lagging, furnace equipment and heating ducts. Performing specific duties such as the cleaning and repair of furnaces, heating and cooling systems; cement installation; plastering; and foundation repairs could have caused asbestos fibers to be released into the air and become inhaled. Asbestos was also present in boiler and machinery rooms, where many maintenance workers carried out their jobs.



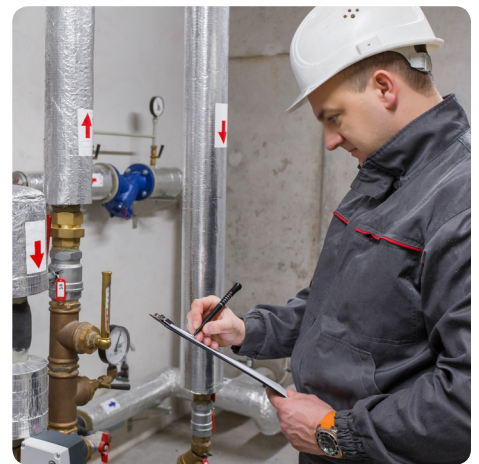
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- Asbestos is also known to be present in many older school buildings. While this could be a danger to anyone in the building—including teachers and students—janitors and maintenance workers are likely at higher risk of exposure given their daily tasks, which can often include heavy cleaning and scrubbing as well as recoating, vacuuming and waxing floors.
- Some custodial workers may have unknowingly brought asbestos into their homes, putting their family members in danger of secondhand exposure. Did you ever come home from work and shake white dust off your jacket or hair? That dust may have contained asbestos. Asbestos fibers are smaller than a grain of sand and can easily get lodged in hair and on clothing—even hugging a family member or washing clothes with asbestos dust on them can put someone at risk of inhaling the deadly fibers.

Check out our list of occupations that may have exposed custodians, janitors and building maintenance workers to asbestos:

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| • Boiler Inspector | • HVAC Worker | • Superintendent |
| • Custodian | • Janitor | • Utility Man |
| • Electrician | • Maintenance Worker | |
| • Furnace Repairman | • Plumber | |



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MESOTHELIOMA COMPENSATION

If you or a loved one worked in any of these industries, you may be at risk of developing mesothelioma or another asbestos-related disease. Make sure your doctor is aware of your work and military history, as this could play an integral part in confirming a mesothelioma diagnosis and any compensation you may be entitled to.

Companies knew about the dangers of asbestos but continued to manufacture and sell asbestos-containing products. In short, they put profits ahead of people. For many manufacturers no longer in business, special court-ordered trusts—estimated at over \$30 Billion—have been set up to provide compensation for mesothelioma victims and their families.

Sokolove Law is a trusted mesothelioma law firm, and a leading provider of legal services that help victims of asbestos exposure file asbestos claims. **For more than 30 years, Sokolove Law has helped bring justice and compensation to thousands of mesothelioma victims—and their families.**



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