

KEY POINTS

- Asbestos can be found in places like ceiling tiles, corrugated roofs and in textured paints. The three main health conditions resulting from exposure are asbestosis, lung cancer and mesothelioma.
- Sewage workers, refuse workers and paramedics are some of the occupations at risk of contracting a blood-borne virus. Precautions include immunisation where possible, wearing appropriate PPE, covering all cuts with waterproof dressings and correct use and disposal of sharps.
- Exposure to exhaust fumes presents a significant risk of exposure to carbon monoxide and using carbon monoxide alarms is important.
- Cement is hazardous both in powdered form and as wet cement.
- Two key situations where *Legionella* bacteria may proliferate are stagnant water being present and situations where water temperature is in the range of 20–45°C.
- Following good hygiene procedures is a key control measure to avoid contracting leptospirosis.
- Exposure to respirable crystalline silica (RCS) can cause diseases such as lung cancer and COPD, which are likely to cause irreversible health effects. Minimising exposure to RCS is crucial to minimise health risks.
- Exposure to wood dust can cause respiratory disease and nasal cancer. Reduction of exposure to the dust is an important control measure.

Reference

¹Adapted from: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/diagrams.htm>

²International Labour Organization, 'Asbestos: limitless, endless contamination – with complete impunity' (19 March 2019) (<https://www.ilo.org/resource/statement/asbestos-limitless-end-less-contamination-%E2%80%93-complete-impunity>)

³Asbestos.com, 'Mesothelioma & Asbestos Worldwide' (last updated 2 July 2026) (<https://www.asbestos.com/mesothelioma/worldwide/>)

⁴International Labour Organization, 'Recognizing the dangers of asbestos' (8 May 2019) (<https://www.ilo.org/resource/news/recognizing-dangers-asbestos>)