

Mesothelioma & Asbestos Awareness Center

Whether you are interested in purchasing a new home or are looking to hire a professional to do maintenance work on your current residence, a home inspector serves a very important purpose. Home inspectors are certified to perform various services, including residential inspections for potential homebuyers, preventative maintenance checks for homeowners, home energy consultations, and more.

Although the average person may not consider it, home inspectors face several occupational hazards. Perhaps the greatest risk is the potential for asbestos exposure. Approximately 35 million residences within the U.S. were constructed using asbestos-containing materials, including insulation, floor and ceiling tiles, and roofing implements. When these asbestos-containing materials are disturbed or damaged, the tiny asbestos fibers may become airborne, putting home inspectors at risk for inhalation. Asbestos exposure has been conclusively linked to the eventual development of [mesothelioma](#), a deadly lung cancer that has no known cure and a survival rate of less than 1%.

Home inspectors must adhere to safety guidelines when they are on the job. This includes wearing protective equipment, such as an approved NIOSH breathing apparatus or eyewear, when inspecting a structure that may contain asbestos-containing materials. It is important to work with a home inspector who is a certified member of the **American Society of Home Inspectors** (www.ashi.org) to ensure that they will follow appropriate safety rules in an effort to protect all individuals involved in the inspection process, including their employees and homeowners.

The Mesothelioma & Asbestos Awareness Center is the web's leading resource for information related to asbestos exposure, [mesothelioma](#), and mesothelioma treatment options. For additional information, please visit the **Mesothelioma & Asbestos Awareness Center** at www.maacenter.org