

Newsletter September 2021

Where can you find asbestos?

Asbestos can be found in any industrial or residential building built or refurbished before the year 2000. It is in many of the common materials used in the building trade that you may come across during your work.

Why is it dangerous?

When materials that contain asbestos are disturbed or damaged, fibres are released into the air. When these fibres are inhaled, they can cause serious diseases. These diseases will not affect you immediately; they often take a long time to develop, but once diagnosed, it is often too late to do anything. Therefore, it is important that you protect yourself now.

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/index.htm>

What is Legionnaire's disease?

Legionnaires' disease is a potentially fatal form of pneumonia, and everyone is susceptible to infection. The risk increases with age, but some people are at higher risk including:

- people over 45 years of age
- smokers and heavy drinkers
- people suffering from chronic respiratory or kidney disease
- diabetes, lung, and heart disease
- anyone with an impaired immune system

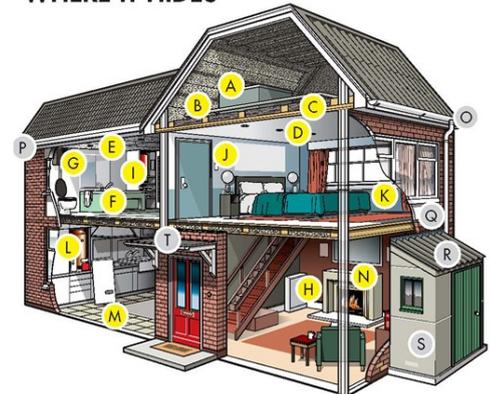
Where does it come from?

Legionella bacteria are widespread in natural water systems, e.g., rivers and ponds. However, it is very unlikely for people to catch it from these sources, outbreaks of the illness occur from exposure to legionella growing in purpose-built systems where water is maintained at a high enough temperature that encourages growth, e.g., hot and cold-water systems

How do people get it?

People contract Legionnaires' disease by inhaling small droplets of water (aerosols), suspended in the air, containing the bacteria.

ASBESTOS WHERE IT HIDES



Symptoms and treatment

The symptoms of Legionnaires' disease are like the symptoms of the flu:

- high temperature, feverishness, and chills.
- cough.
- muscle pains.
- headache; and leading on to
- pneumonia, very occasionally
- diarrhoea and signs of mental confusion

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/legionnaires/index.htm>



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Furniture and furnishings (Fire Safety) Regulations 1988/1989, 1993 and 2010

The Furniture and Furnishings (Fire Safety) regulations 1988, which were amended in 1989, 1993 and 2010 are UK law and are designed to ensure that upholstery components and composites used for furniture supplied in the UK meet specified ignition resistance levels and are suitably labelled.

There are six elements contained within the regulations:

1. Filling materials must meet specified ignition requirements
2. Upholstery composites must be cigarette resistant
3. Covers must be match resistant (with certain exceptions as outlined in Section 8.2 and Appendix A5)
4. A permanent label must be fitted to every item of new furniture (with the exception of mattresses and bed-bases)
5. A display label must be fitted to every item of new furniture at the point of sale (with the exception of mattresses, bed-bases, pillows, scatter cushions, seat pads, loose covers sold separately from the furniture and stretch covers)
6. The first supplier of domestic upholstered furniture in the UK must maintain records for five years to prove compliance. The requirements regarding testing and labelling of items are detailed in Schedules 1-7 of the Regulations. Schedules 1-5 provide detailed information regarding the testing requirements for foam and non-foam fillings, composites, interliners and covers. Schedules 6-7 provide detailed information regarding the display and permanent labelling of the final item.

<https://www.firesafe.org.uk/furniture-and-furnishings-fire-safety-regulations-19881989-and-1993/>