

# Understanding Asbestos and Silica related diseases

We've been helping people and their families who have suffered Asbestos and Silica related diseases for over 35 years.

## Learn more about Asbestos

When products containing asbestos are disturbed (for example, cut, broken, or drilled into), tiny asbestos fibres are released into the air. When these fibres are breathed in, they can become trapped in the lungs and can cause several very serious diseases.

We will work with you to understand your potential exposure history and investigate on your behalf. Even if you're unsure if or how you were exposed to asbestos, we can help you work it out. We have a vast database of detailed information regarding sites where asbestos was used, products that contained asbestos, and other useful information that can assist to pinpoint an exposure. Common ways asbestos exposure can occur include:

- + You handled products that contained asbestos at work
- + You performed renovations to property that contained asbestos
- + You handled and washed clothes that contained asbestos

If you were exposed to asbestos at work, even if your employer went out of business years ago, you may still be eligible for compensation. Regardless of your age or occupation, asbestos exposure can occur in many different situations and may have a major impact on your health. Some of the common asbestos related diseases include:

- + Mesothelioma
- + Asbestosis
- + Lung cancer
- + Pleural disease



## Learn more about Silica

Crystalline silica is a mineral in the Earth's crust and a basic component of soil, sand and granite. It's also used in the construction of materials such as bricks, tiles, concrete and artificial stone. When working with these materials you may be exposed to silica dust, particularly if using power tools to cut, grind and drill products. Some of the activities that might expose you to silica dust are:

- + Brick cutting
- + Angle grinding concrete
- + Masonry
- + Tunnel work
- + Sandblasting
- + Glass manufacturing
- + Steel industry work
- + Quarrying
- + Concrete cutting, jack hammering and chiselling of concrete
- + Cleaning up/sweeping up of dust and debris
- + Use of power tools to cut, grind and drill into artificial stone (eg. Caesarstone)
- + Silica exposure can cause a range of serious health issues
- + Ceramics work

Silica dust is so fine it can enter the deepest parts of the lungs. It is marked by inflammation and scarring in the upper part of the lungs. The dust can build up in the lungs over time and cause scarring leading to a number of diseases. Silicosis is a very serious disease caused by the inhalation of crystalline silica. Excessive exposure to airborne silica dust can cause the following conditions:

- + Silicosis
- + Chronic bronchitis
- + Chronic airway obstruction
- + Lung cancer
- + Autoimmune diseases
- + Chronic renal disease

## Know your entitlements

If you've suffered from an asbestos or silica-related injury or illness, you may be entitled to compensation for:

- + Pain and suffering and loss of enjoyment of life
- + Medical expenses past and future
- + Care received from others, even if not paid for by you
- + Loss of earnings and loss of earning capacity
- + Cost of assistance around the home
- + Other out-of-pocket expenses

## Act quickly

If you've been diagnosed with an asbestos or silica related disease, it's very important to seek advice as soon as possible to make sure legal proceedings are issued within your lifetime, to ensure your rights are fully protected.

## How we can help you

Everyone is different and every case is different so depending on your claim and your health, the process at times can take as little as a few weeks to resolve. Our knowledgeable and caring team will work with you to try to achieve the best possible outcome.

### With appointments and meetings that are most convenient for you

We understand that there may be circumstances where you may not be able to travel. We have offices nationwide, so we can come to you at home<sup>‡</sup>, at the hospital, over the phone or via video conference.

### You can decide how involved you'd like to be in your claim

We will keep you informed but also do the work for you, so you can focus on your medical treatment and look after yourself and your family. We're happy to be guided by you as to how much involvement you wish to have. You're also welcome to appoint a family member or friend to support you. If your case proceeds to trial, we'll guide you through the process ensuring your health and wellbeing are prioritised.

### We offer free social work services

We understand that seeking your legal entitlements is only one aspect of your journey after a diagnosis. That's why we offer free social work services to provide additional support for what's to come.

**Get in touch today and we'll take it from here.**

**1800 555 777 | [slatergordon.com.au](https://www.slatergordon.com.au)**

**+** **Slater  
Gordon**  
Lawyers

\*Conditions apply - No win, no fee, this means if you are not successful, you will not be liable to pay our professional fees. You may still be liable for third party costs and disbursements.

‡Conditions apply - Travel to regional areas and interstate may vary subject to Slater and Gordon's discretion.