

# A GUIDE TO MESOTHELIOMA

**3,000**

cases of mesothelioma  
each year in the US

**MESOTHELIOMA:**  
a cancer of the  
surrounding tissues  
of the lungs and/or  
abdomen

**75**

average age of  
mesothelioma  
diagnosis

develops  
**15-50**  
years after  
exposure



of cases occur in the  
**lining of the lungs**  
(pleural mesothelioma)



of cases occur in the  
**lining of the abdomen**  
(peritoneal mesothelioma)

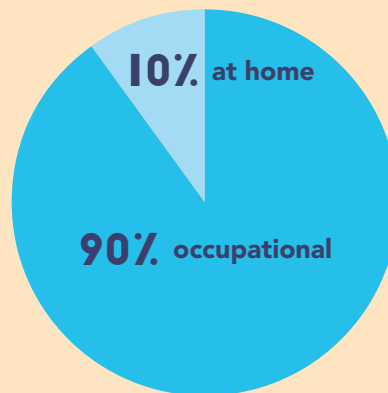
**!**  
Mesothelioma is uniquely  
linked with **asbestos**  
exposure.

## AT HOME EXPOSURE

Many workers **unknowingly**  
**exposed** their families to asbestos after  
**coming home with fibers on their clothing.**  
Even though family members did not work  
directly with asbestos products, they are still  
at risk of developing mesothelioma.



## WHERE MESOTHELIOMA CAUSED BY ASBESTOS EXPOSURE OCCURS





## COMMON OCCUPATIONS EXPOSED TO ASBESTOS:

**PLUMBERS**  
**PIPEFITTERS**  
**INSULATORS**  
**ELECTRICIANS**  
**BOILERMAKERS**  
**AUTO MECHANICS**  
**PLASTICS WORKERS**  
**SHEET METAL WORKERS**  
**POWER PLANT WORKERS**  
**CONSTRUCTION WORKERS**

 If you have been diagnosed with mesothelioma,  
O'Brien Law Firm will provide a **full case evaluation**  
**at no cost or obligation to you.**  
Contact us today.

815 Geyer Ave  
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 **O'BRIEN**  
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# HOW MESOTHELIOMA DEVELOPS

## WHAT IS MESOTHELIOMA?

- Cancer of the **mesothelium** (surrounding tissues) of the **lungs and/or abdomen**
- Uniquely linked with **asbestos exposure**
- Develops **15-50 years after exposure**
- Most common types are **pleural (lungs)** and **peritoneal (abdomen) mesothelioma**



## WHAT IS ASBESTOS?

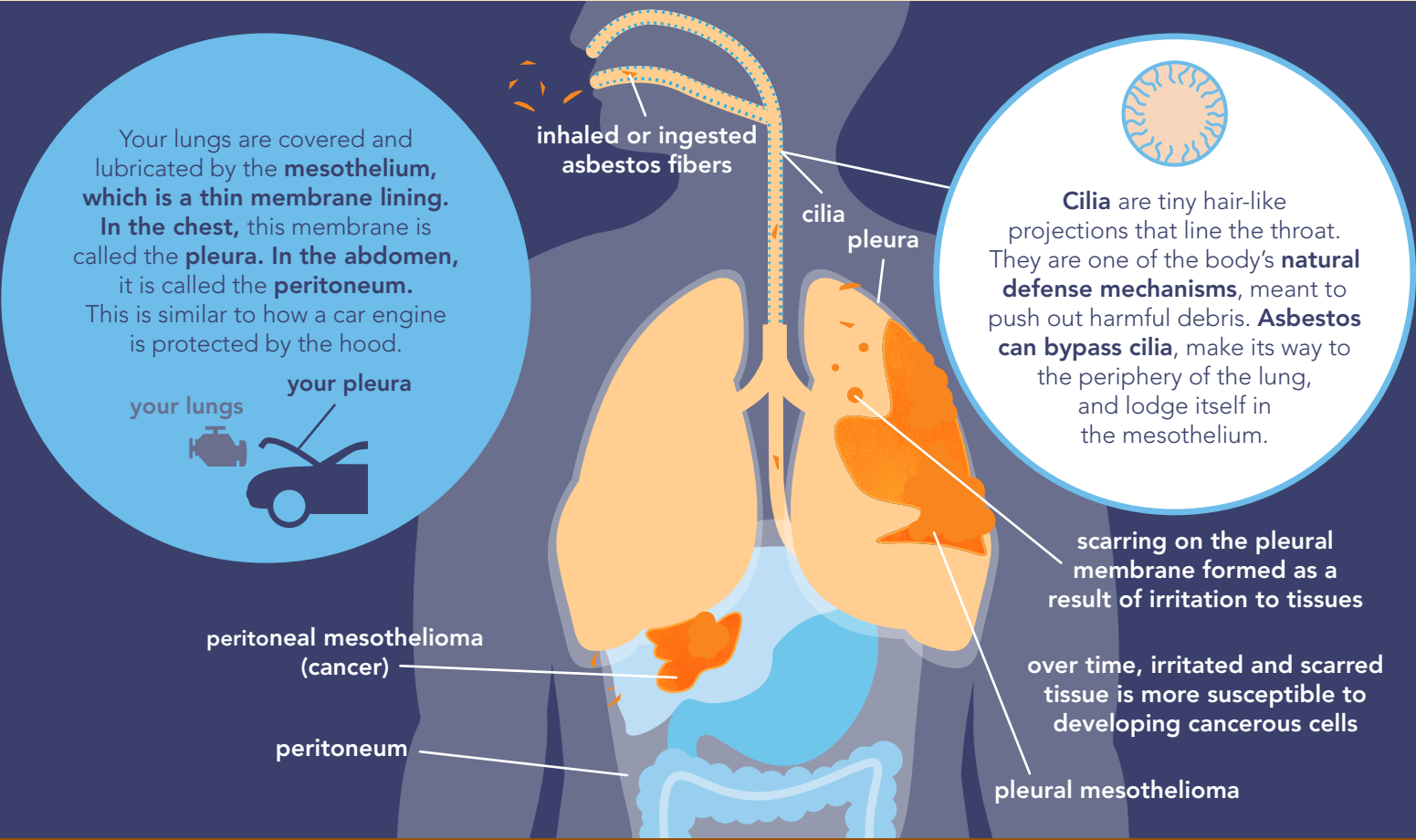
- Naturally occurring fibrous mineral that is a recognized **carcinogen**
- Once valued as a **fire and chemical resistant material**, it was widely used in the construction, automotive, military, marine, and manufacturing industries
- When it is cut or crushed, the **fibers can be inhaled or ingested**

## HOW SMALL IS ASBESTOS?

2 grains of rice  
20,000 microscopic asbestos fibers



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Your lungs are covered and lubricated by the **mesothelium, which is a thin membrane lining.** In the chest, this membrane is called the **pleura.** In the abdomen, it is called the **peritoneum.** This is similar to how a car engine is protected by the hood.



**Cilia** are tiny hair-like projections that line the throat. They are one of the body's **natural defense mechanisms**, meant to push out harmful debris. **Asbestos can bypass cilia**, make its way to the periphery of the lung, and lodge itself in the mesothelium.

scarring on the pleural membrane formed as a result of irritation to tissues

over time, irritated and scarred tissue is more susceptible to developing cancerous cells

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