

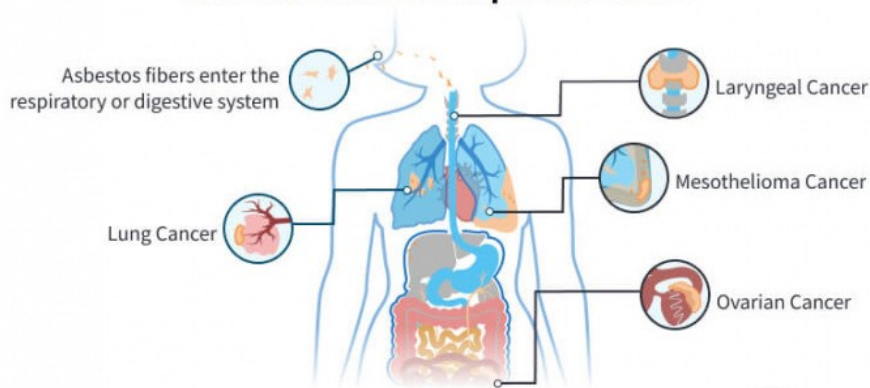


Ban on Asbestos in the United States

The **Environmental Protection Agency** of the United States recently announced a comprehensive ban on [asbestos](#), a **carcinogen** that kills tens of thousands of Americans every year.

- Asbestos, which was once **common in home insulation and other products**, is banned in more than **50 countries**, and its use in the US has been declining for decades.
 - The only form of asbestos known to be currently imported, processed or distributed for use in the US is **chrysotile asbestos**, which is imported primarily from Brazil and Russia.
 - The substance is used to manufacture **chlorine bleach and sodium hydroxide, also known as caustic soda**, including some that are used for water purification.
- Exposure to asbestos poses severe health risks, including lung cancer, **asbestosis** (lung scarring), [mesothelioma](#) (a rare aggressive cancer), and pleural complications like thickening and fluid buildup.
 - **India banned the mining of asbestos in 2011**, but it still imports and uses asbestos in products like insulation, roofing sheets, and brake linings.

How Asbestos Develops Into Cancer



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