

Asbestos removal

Most workers who have died from over-exposure to asbestos fibres have been in the construction trades.

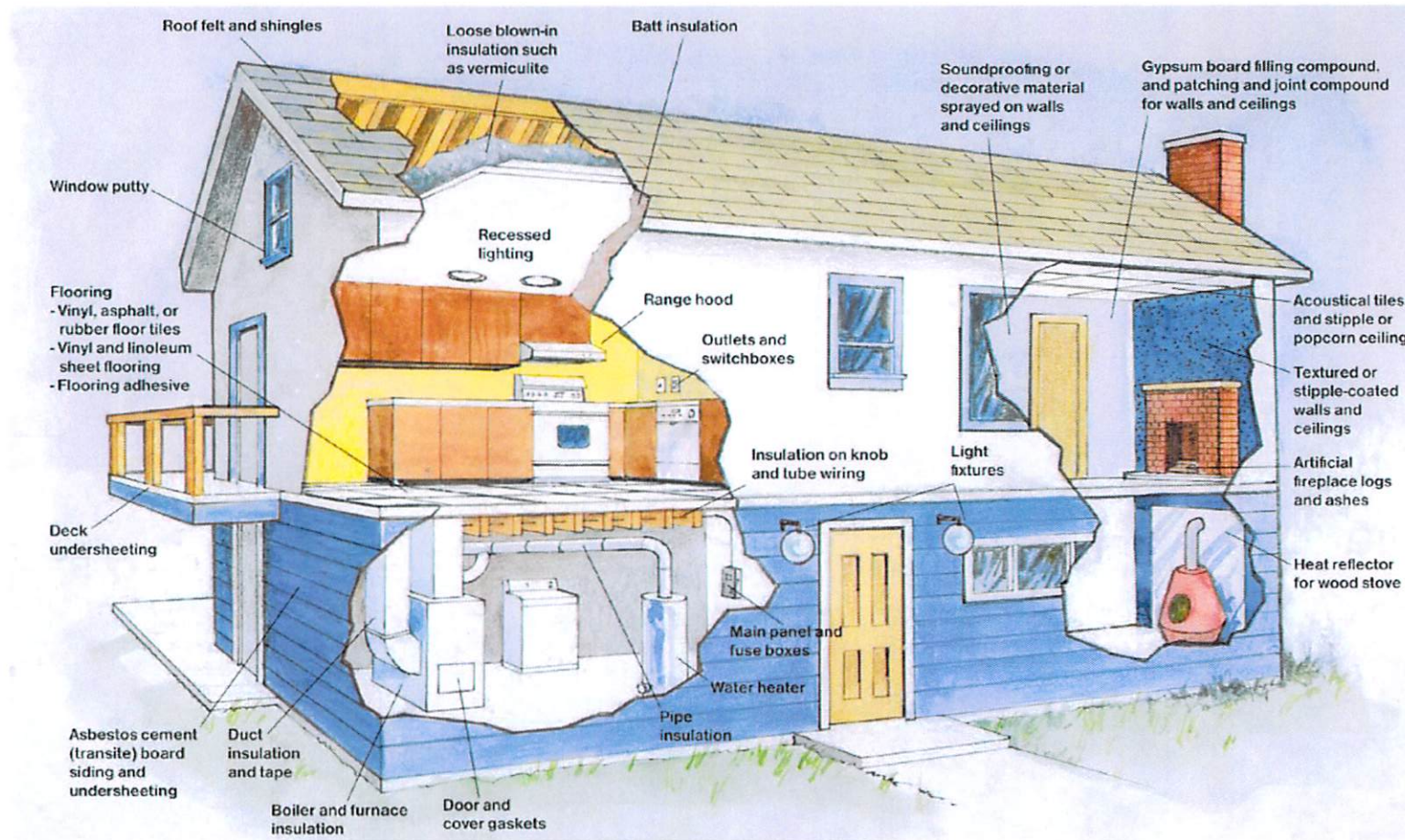
Until 1978, there were over 3000 products containing asbestos used in house construction. When renovating or demolishing older homes, there is a high probability of encountering asbestos-containing materials. Asbestos-containing materials that were once commonly used in residential construction are shown in the following illustration.

Exposure to asbestos fibres may result in asbestosis, lung cancer, or mesothelioma (cancer affecting the lining of the chest or abdominal cavity).

Employers and owner/builders are responsible for determining if materials containing asbestos are present at the job site before work begins. If these materials are found, they must be removed and disposed of by trained and qualified workers before renovation or demolition work begins.

If, during work activities, materials are found to contain asbestos – stop work immediately! Have trained, qualified workers remove this material before resuming work. (Refer to WorkSafeBC guideline: G68 Procedures for abatement of asbestos-containing material during house and building demolition/renovation.)

Possible sources of asbestos



These products may contain asbestos, depending on the age of the building and the materials used to manufacture the product.