

Window Closing on Asbestos Claims

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During college, I worked as a janitor at Kimberly's middle school. In my fourth summer, part of the school was closed off so a specialty company could come in and remove some asbestos tiles located in the old part of the building.

It was a little upsetting that my dad attended high school in the building for four years, I attended middle school there for two and worked there for four summers, and I had countless friends who either went or worked there, too, and we were all exposed to the asbestos. It was even more upsetting that they removed the floor AFTER I had already scrubbed it.

Once thought of as a miracle product, asbestos was widely used for industrial purposes because it does not burn, conduct heat or electricity and is resistant to many chemicals. Because of these properties, asbestos was used for making fireproof materials, electrical insulation, roofing and flooring products.

However, with all the plusses, came a huge minus – asbestos fibers, if inhaled, can be extremely harmful. While it should be called asworstos, asbestos has been conclusively linked to lung diseases and cancer, specifically mesothelioma.

Rightfully, many people harmed by asbestos, or their families, filed lawsuits in the 1980s after the danger of asbestos was discovered to try to be compensated for their injuries. After the onslaught of these suits, some by uninjured parties trying to get an unjust payoff, 70 American manufacturers paid out billions of dollars in claims and filed for bankruptcy.

One such company is W.R. Grace & Co., which filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in 2001. From the 1920s until 1984, Grace manufactured Zonolite Attic Insulation, a vermiculite home attic insulation that contained naturally occurring asbestos.

On June 17, 2008, Bankruptcy Judge Judith K. Fitzgerald ordered that all persons and entities with ZAI claims against Grace must file these claims on or before October 31, 2008. ZAI claims could include, among others, the cost of abatement or removal, the diminution of property value, economic loss, or other property-related claims caused by ZAI manufactured by Grace.

If you suspect you have a claim, visit www.graceclaims.com right away.