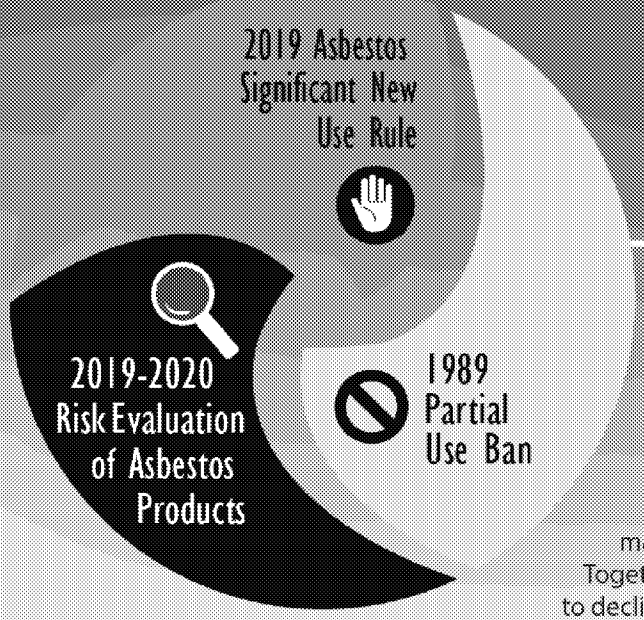
EPA Actions to Protect the Public from the Health Impacts of Asbestos

The use of asbestos has dramatically declined since its peak in the 1970s. Today, there are few remaining asbestos products and asbestos is no longer mined in the United States.

There are three key actions that EPA has taken or is actively working on that address asbestos-containing products.



1989 Partial Use Ban

An EPA rule under the Toxic Substances Control Act banned the manufacture, import, processing and distribution of five broad categories of asbestos-containing products and any new products used for the first time after August 1989. These categories include: asbestos-containing flooring felt, rollboard, and commercial, corrugated, and specialty papers.

2019 Asbestos Significant New Use Rule

The final rule prohibits unregulated asbestos products from being reintroduced into the United States marketplace without EPA's review and evaluation.

2019-2020 Risk Evaluation of Asbestos Products

This process is required by law to evaluate whether current asbestos products present an unreasonable risk of injury to health or the environment. This process must be completed before EPA is able to restrict or ban any of those products.

EPA also has a wide range of guidance and tools at available online to help homeowners, schools, building managers, and remediation professionals safely manage, clean-up and dispose of asbestos-containing products. Together EPA's actions are ensuring public health is protected as the use of asbestos in the United States continues to decline.

EPA

www.epa.gov/asbestos