

# Facts About Asbestos in Canada

- Imports of asbestos-related items rose to \$6-million in 2014 from \$4.9-million in 2013.
- The bulk of these goods consisted of asbestos brake linings and pads, which hit \$3.6-million in imports in 2014, a seven-year high.
- Other imports included raw asbestos, friction materials and some items containing crocidolite, which is considered the most dangerous form of asbestos.
- Asbestos is by far the top on-the-job killer in Canada, accounting for almost 5,000 death claims since 1996. But that does not reflect the true depth of its effects. Many victims die of mesothelioma, asbestosis and lung cancer, though it may take 20 to 50 years after exposures to materialize.
- As of this writing Canada continues to allow imports and exports of asbestos, unlike dozens of other countries such as Australia, Japan, Sweden and Britain, which have imposed a ban.
- Canada has imported more than \$100-million in asbestos brake pad and linings in the past decade.
- In total, more than \$250-million in imports of asbestos and asbestos-containing products entered the country between 2004 and 2014.
- Canada was also one of the world's largest exporters of asbestos, though raw shipments stopped in 2011 after the last mines closed.
- Last year, this country exported \$1.8-million worth of asbestos products.

Source: Statistics Canada