

## Regal Home Inspections, LLC

Find of the Week 1/19/2019

Transite is a building material that was used in the past (circa 1930s - 1960s). It was usually found in pipe form and the pipe was used for different applications in home construction. One might consider it a versatile material because it was used to manufacture plumbing pipes such as waste piping. Transite pipes were used as flue pipes to exhaust hot gasses from furnaces or boilers. Transite was also used for air ducts in forced air home heating systems.

The problem with transite is that it was manufactured with asbestos. Asbestos, as many people know, is a carcinogen. We've all heard the commercials for mesothelioma attorneys. People that worked in ship yards, industrial factories, etc. may have been exposed to asbestos in the past and may have developed different forms of cancer. Asbestos is classified as carcinogenic to humans, based on its ability to cause mesothelioma and cancers of the lung and other areas in the body. Below is a link to the American Cancer Society

[Asbestos and Cancer Risk - American Cancer Society](#)

I've seen transite in flue pipe applications in the past as well as in waste piping. However, at a recent inspection of a house built in the 1960s, transite was used in the ducts for the forced air heating system. The air circulating through the house in the heating system was, in part, being distributed through transite pipes.

A quick Google search for the phrase, "What is transite pipe" yields a long list of informative links and good information.

From a home inspection perspective, once the transite was visually identified\* as shown in the adjacent photo, it was reported as a, "Material Defect" in accordance with NJ Home Inspection Administrative Code standards of practice and the client was given a recommendation for next steps and a reference to an asbestos expert.



*\*Please note that the material appeared to be transite and based on the age of the house it likely is. However, this inspector does not carry a microscope and is not technically trained to identify asbestos fibers under a microscope. However, based on general, home inspection training, experience and considering all the facts (such as the*

*age of the house) the findings and manner of reporting are believed to be accurate and appropriate.*

Here's a section of transite pipe used on the waste (Sewer) pipe leaving a house seen on an inspection in 2018. Not as important as when it's used for air supply ducts. Only the section near the wall is transite. There is also modern PVC waste pipe seen in the adjacent photo.

