

Diseases & Locations Related to Agent Orange

We believe that contact with Agent Orange, a toxic chemical used to clear trees and plants during the Vietnam War, likely causes several illnesses. Find out if you can get disability compensation or benefits if you had contact with Agent Orange while serving in the military and now have 1 or more of the illnesses listed below.

Cancers believed to be caused by contact with Agent Orange

- **Chronic B-cell Leukemia**: A type of cancer that affects your white blood cells (cells in your body's immune system that help to fight off illnesses and infections)
- **Hodgkin's Disease**: A type of cancer that causes your lymph nodes, liver, and spleen to get bigger and your red blood cells to decrease (called anemia)
- **Multiple Myeloma**: A type of cancer that affects your plasma cells (white blood cells made in your bone marrow that help to fight infection)
- **Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma**: A group of cancers that affect the lymph glands and other lymphatic tissue (a part of your immune system that helps to fight infection and illness)
- **Prostate Cancer**: Cancer of the prostate (the gland in men that helps to make semen)
- **Respiratory Cancers (including lung cancer)**: Cancers of the organs involved in breathing (including the lungs, larynx, trachea, and bronchus)
- **Soft Tissue Sarcomas (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or mesothelioma)**: Different types of cancers in body tissues such as muscle, fat, blood and lymph vessels, and connective tissues

Other illnesses believed to be caused by contact with Agent Orange

- **AL Amyloidosis**: A rare illness that happens when an abnormal protein (called amyloid) builds up in your body's tissues, nerves, or organs (like your heart, kidneys, or liver) and causes damage over time
- **Chloracne (or other types of acneform disease like it)**: A skin condition that happens soon after contact with chemicals and looks like acne often seen in teenagers. Under our rating regulations, it must be at least 10% disabling within 1 year of contact with herbicides.
- **Diabetes Mellitus Type 2**: An illness that happens when your body is unable to properly use insulin (a hormone that turns blood glucose, or sugar, into energy), leading to high blood sugar levels
- **Ischemic Heart Disease**: A type of heart disease that happens when your heart doesn't get enough blood (and the oxygen the blood carries). It often causes chest pain or discomfort.
- **Parkinson's Disease**: An illness of the nervous system (the network of nerves and fibers that send messages between your brain and spinal cord and other areas of your body) that affects your muscles and movement—and gets worse over time
- **Peripheral Neuropathy, Early Onset**: An illness of the nervous system that causes numbness, tingling, and weakness. Under our rating regulations, it must be at least 10% disabling within 1 year of contact with herbicides.
- **Porphyria Cutanea Tarda**: A rare illness that can make your liver stop working the way it should and can cause your skin to thin and blister when you're out in the sun. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10% disabling within 1 year of contact with herbicides.

Recently added January 1, 2021

- **Bladder cancer**
- **Hypothyroidism**: A condition in which thyroid gland does not produce enough of certain crucial hormones.
- **Parkinson's-like symptoms**: A condition with symptoms such as tremor, slow movement, impaired speech, and muscle stiffness that resembles Parkinson's Disease but is not formally diagnosed as such.

PACT ACT (dates TBD)

- **High blood pressure (also called hypertension)**
- **Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS)**

If you have an illness, you think is caused by contact with Agent Orange—and you don't see it listed here—you can still file a claim for disability compensation. You'll need to show that you have a disability and include a doctor's report or a hospital report stating that your illness is believed to be caused by contact with Agent Orange.

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Presumptive Locations for Agent Orange:

- **Vietnam: January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975:**
 - Aboard a U.S. military vessel that operated in the inland waterways of Vietnam, or
 - On a vessel operating not more than 12 nautical miles seaward from the demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia, or
 - On regular perimeter duty on the fenced-in perimeters of a U.S. Army installation in Thailand or a Royal Thai Air Force base. These bases include U-Tapao, Ubon, Nakhon Phanom, Udon, Takhli, Korat, or Don Muang. oastal Waters of Vietnam up to 12NM
- **Korean DMZ**
 - You served in or near the Korean DMZ for any length of time between September 1, 1967, and August 31, 1971, or
 - You served on active duty in a regular Air Force unit location where a C-123 aircraft with traces of Agent Orange was assigned, and had repeated contact with this aircraft due to your flight, ground, or medical duties, or
 - You were involved in transporting, testing, storing, or other uses of Agent Orange during your military service, or
 - You were assigned as a Reservist to certain flight, ground, or medical crew duties at one of the below locations
- **Eligible Reserve locations, time periods, and units include:**
 - Lockbourne/Rickenbacker Air Force Base in Ohio, 1969 to 1986 (906th and 907th Tactical Air Groups or 355th and 356th Tactical Airlift Squadrons)
 - Westover Air Force Base in Massachusetts, 1972 to 1982 (731st Tactical Air Squadron and 74th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, or 901st Organizational Maintenance Squadron)
 - Pittsburgh International Airport in Pennsylvania, 1972 to 1982 (758th Airlift Squadron)
- **Pact ACT (dates TBD)**
 - Any U.S. or Royal Thai military base in Thailand from January 9, 1962, through June 30, 1976
 - Laos from December 1, 1965, through September 30, 1969
 - Cambodia at Mimot or Krek, Kampong Cham Province from April 16, 1969, through April 30, 1969
 - Guam or American Samoa or in the territorial waters off of Guam or American Samoa from January 9, 1962, through July 30, 1980
 - Johnston Atoll or on a ship that called at Johnston Atoll from January 1, 1972, through September 30, 1977

Birth Defects in Children of Vietnam and Korea Veterans

- VA has recognized that certain birth defects among Veterans' children are associated with Veterans' qualifying service in Vietnam or Korea.
- Spina bifida (except spina bifida occulta), a defect in the developing fetus that results in incomplete closing of the spine, is associated with Veterans' exposure to Agent Orange or other herbicides during qualifying service in Vietnam or Korea.
- Birth defects in children of women Veterans is associated with their military service in Vietnam, but are not related to herbicide exposure.
- The affected child must have been conceived after the Veteran entered Vietnam or the Korean demilitarized zone during the qualifying service period.
- Children with spina bifida or covered birth defects who are biological children of Veterans with qualifying service may be eligible for compensation, health care and vocational training.