

Diseases Related to Agent Orange Exposure

Exposure to Agent Orange, a toxic chemical used to clear trees and plants during the Vietnam War, likely causes several illnesses. Below list the presumptive illnesses associated with exposure to Agent Orange.

Cancers believed to be caused by exposure to 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 exposure to 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 VA 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 VA 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.

If you have an illness you think is caused by exposure to 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 statement or a hospital statement noting that your illness is believed to be caused by exposure to Agent Orange.

Warren County Veterans' Services at 518/761-6342 - review of your benefits and/or file a VA claim.