

Discovering a Lost Asset That Could Save Your Business

Ever lay awake worrying that paying for old pollution could ruin your business? It's true that you can still be liable today for pollution created long ago. And after soaking through soil or moving with groundwater for decades, cleaning up can cost millions. But you may have a long lost ally—old insurance policies.

Before the mid-1980s, insurance policies commonly covered any unintended pollution that occurred during the policy period, even if you didn't discover the damage until decades later. Those old policies never die; they just get lost and forgotten. Eventually, insurers wised up. They began insuring only claims made during the policy period. Now, when the policy period ends, the coverage generally expires. Insurers also began excluding pollution, asbestosis and other claims that can cause liability years after first exposure.

Those old policies can be enormously valuable to you, and costly to insurance companies. That's why insurers generally don't save copies of old policies. And if you didn't save them either, you could end up losing what you paid for—insurance that lasts forever.

We can help you find old lost policies. You may be overlooking valuable clues. An old file about a slip and fall accident might contain a claims adjuster's letter that lists a policy number. An old declaration page holds important clues even if it's no longer attached to the policy. An old letter from your former insurance agent may hold clues to finding a lost policy. So far, we've found over \$100 million of environmental and asbestos coverage for clients who did not realize they had it.

But these clues grow dimmer each year. Memories fade, people die, and people keep throwing away old files. This is why you need to look now, before it's too late. If you have any questions or need help, please contact [Steve Bogart](#) or your Reinhart attorney.

These materials provide general information which does not constitute legal or tax advice and should not be relied upon as such. Particular facts or future developments in the law may affect the topic(s) addressed within these materials. Always consult with a lawyer about your particular circumstances before acting on any information presented in these materials because it may not be applicable to you or your situation. Providing these materials to you does not create an attorney/client relationship. You should not provide confidential information to us until Reinhart agrees to represent you.

POSTED:

Mar 3, 2010

RELATED PRACTICES:

[Litigation](#)

<https://www.reinhartlaw.com/practices/litigation>

RELATED PEOPLE:

[Steven P. Bogart](#)

<https://www.reinhartlaw.com/people/steven-bogart>