

Asbestos Advisory for Homeowners

Asbestos fibers pose a significant health threat to, homeowners, building occupants, employees, the public and the environment. DEQ regulates the removal and disposal of asbestos-containing materials (ACM) to prevent asbestos fiber release and exposure.

Asbestos in your home may be hazardous to your health, depending on its condition. As long as the ACM is in stable condition, not damaged and well-sealed, it is considered safe and need not be removed.

If there is ACM in or on your owner occupied home (single family residence) that needs to be removed, there are two options for handling those ACMs. One option is to hire an Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) licensed asbestos abatement contractor to remove the ACM. The other option allows the homeowner to remove the ACM themselves.

SURVEY REQUIREMENT

The DEQ requires that an asbestos survey be performed by an accredited inspector to determine the presence of ACM in or on a structure prior to any renovation or demolition activities. Asbestos hazard consultants and many of the licensed asbestos abatement contractors can provide this service.

The survey rule does not apply to residential buildings with four or fewer dwelling units or owners of a single private residence that is not used as a rental property, commercial business, or intended for demolition. However, contractors and homeowners are responsible for any asbestos rule violations that may occur from renovation or demolition work in or on their structure when a survey is not performed.

When the renovation activity performed by a contractor involves a single material, such as the replacement of sheet vinyl (there can be multiple layers), there are two options the DEQ recommends for determining the presence of asbestos:

- (1) You may presume the sheet vinyl contains asbestos and have it abated by a licensed asbestos abatement contractor.

- (2) You can collect a sample of each layer of sheet vinyl and have it analyzed at a laboratory. If the analysis results identify that any layer of sheet vinyl contains asbestos, a licensed asbestos abatement contractor must abate the materials.

There is a Fact Sheet specific to the building survey requirement available that is outlined in a question/answer format. A list of consultants, laboratories, abatement contractors and the building survey Fact Sheet can be obtained by contacting a regional office listed below.

ASBESTOS-CONTAINING MATERIALS

In general, there are two types of ACMs:

- **Friable** ACM will easily release fibers when crushed. Examples of friable ACM can include, but are not limited to the following: sheet vinyl flooring, insulation on piping, duct and boilers, fireproofing, ceiling texture and panel products, and soundproofing.
- **Nonfriable** ACM have a binder that holds the asbestos fibers within a solid matrix and will not allow asbestos fibers to release easily, unless mishandled, damaged, or in badly worn or weathered condition. **Nonfriable materials must remain in nonfriable condition (predominantly whole pieces) during the removal and disposal process.** Examples of nonfriable ACM can include, but are not limited to the following: vinyl floor tile, AC water pipe, and cement (transite) siding or roofing.

HOMEOWNER ABATEMENT

If the owner occupant of a single-family residence decides to conduct the asbestos abatement themselves, the DEQ can provide guidance documents that have instructions for the safe removal of friable and nonfriable ACM. A copy of the guidance documents can be obtained by contacting a regional office listed below.

WASTE HANDLING AND DISPOSAL

All asbestos-containing waste materials (ACWM) must be disposed of in accordance with DEQ disposal rules at a landfill authorized



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Air Quality

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www.deq.state.or.us

to handle asbestos waste. Friable ACWM must be adequately wet and packaged in a minimum of two 6-mil thick plastic bags that are pre-labeled with the appropriate asbestos hazard warning signs. Nonfriable asbestos-containing waste material must be adequately wet and the DEQ recommends that the ACWM be packaged in leak tight containers

During transport, friable ACWM containers must have a label attached with the name of the generator (person doing the removal) and the address where the asbestos was removed. A DEQ waste shipment report (ASN 4) must also accompany friable ACWM to the authorized landfill. The waste shipment report should also be used when delivering nonfriable ACWM to an authorized landfill. A copy of the waste shipment report can be obtained by contacting a regional office listed below.

The authorized landfill must be contacted prior to disposal to let them know you are bringing in asbestos waste and to discuss whether further restrictions are required by that landfill.

Accumulation of any friable ACM or ACWM is prohibited. This includes nonfriable material that is shattered or pulverized (rendered friable), regardless of the source or original condition of the materials.

ABATEMENT BY THE CONTRACTOR

If the homeowner decides to hire a contractor to remove friable ACM from their home, the contractor must be a DEQ licensed asbestos abatement contractor and all workers must be certified by the DEQ. A list of licensed asbestos abatement contractors can be obtained by contacting a regional office listed below. DEQ can also provide information on a contractor's compliance history with the asbestos rules.

Contractors must file a project notification with the DEQ. The completed notification and fee must be received by the DEQ ten (10) days prior to the start date of a friable project and five (5) days prior to the start date of a nonfriable project. DEQ can waive the waiting period on a case by case basis in emergency situations. Call the DEQ to determine if your project qualifies for this waiver. ***Only DEQ can grant a waiver of the waiting period and waivers must be requested and granted prior to the start of any asbestos removal work.***

To evaluate asbestos problems in the home contact an asbestos abatement contractor or an asbestos consultant. If you have any questions or

concerns about how a contractor is removing or handling ACM, please contact DEQ.

Copies of the guidance document, building survey Fact Sheet, consultant, laboratory, abatement contractor and landfill lists, project notification and waste shipment report can also be found on the DEQ web page at www.deq.state.or.us/aq/asbestos. For further information about the asbestos regulations, contact a regional office.

For Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Multnomah, Tillamook and Washington Counties, call the Portland office at (503) 229-5364, (503) 229-5473, or (800) 452-4011

For Benton, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Polk and Yamhill Counties, call the Salem office at (503) 378-8240, ext. 272 or (800) 349-7677.

For Lane County call Lane Regional Air Pollution Authority at (541) 736-1056.

For Jackson, Josephine and Eastern Douglas Counties, call the Medford office at (541) 776-6010, ext. 235 or (877) 823-3216.

For Coos, Curry and Western Douglas Counties call the Coos Bay office at (541) 269-2721, ext. 22.

For all areas east of the Cascades, call the Bend office at (541) 388-6146, ext. 226, or the Pendleton office at (541) 278-4626 or at 1-800-304-3513.

Alternative Formats

Alternative formats of this document can be made available. Contact DEQ Public Affairs for more information (503) 229-5696.