

Fact Sheet

Asbestos Information

What homeowners need to know about asbestos before starting renovation projects

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality regulates the handling, removal and disposal of asbestos-containing material to protect public health and the environment.

Asbestos is a natural occurring mineral that has been used extensively in a variety of construction materials in the U.S. When asbestos-containing material is disturbed, tiny hazardous fibers are released into the air and may cause lung cancer and other illnesses. There's no known safe level of exposure.

Asbestos in your home may be a hazard depending on its condition. If the asbestos-containing material is stable, undamaged, and well-sealed, it's considered safe and doesn't need to be removed as long as it remains undamaged.

There are two options for asbestos abatement in owner-occupied single family homes. The owner-occupant of a home may: 1) hire a licensed asbestos abatement contractor, or 2) remove the asbestos themselves. Homeowners choosing to remove the asbestos themselves must follow Oregon's requirements for asbestos waste packaging and disposal.



How to prepare for renovation

Asbestos survey: All houses and other residential buildings constructed before 2004 must have an asbestos survey conducted by an accredited inspector prior to any demolition or renovation activities, with one main exception. Owner-occupants doing their own home renovation work are exempt from this rule. The owner-occupant exemption does not apply when the residence is going to be demolished. A copy of the asbestos survey must be on-site during all renovation or demolition activities, and must be provided to DEQ upon request.

Types of asbestos materials

There are two general types of asbestos-containing materials, friable and nonfriable, which have different abatement requirements.

Friable asbestos-containing materials are easily crushed, crumbled or pulverized. Examples of friable materials include sheet vinyl flooring, insulation on pipes, ductwork and boilers, fireproofing, ceiling texture and panel products, and soundproofing.

Eligible to perform friable abatement:

- Licensed asbestos abatement contractors and certified asbestos workers. DEQ has training courses that meet these certification needs
- Owner-occupants of single family homes

Nonfriable asbestos-containing materials have a binder that holds the asbestos fibers within a solid matrix so asbestos fibers will not easily release unless mishandled or damaged. Examples of nonfriable materials include vinyl floor tile, water pipe, and cement siding, roofing or paneling, also known as transite.

Eligible to perform nonfriable abatement:

- Licensed asbestos abatement contractors
- Home, business, and property owners
- Construction Contractors Board (CCB) licensed contractors

Hiring a contractor

If a homeowner decides to hire a contractor, it's important to ensure the contractor has the required credentials.

Only a DEQ-licensed asbestos abatement contractor may perform projects with friable materials. A list of DEQ licensed asbestos abatement contractors is available at: oregon.gov/deq/FilterDocs/asb-contr.pdf

DEQ can provide information on an abatement contractor's compliance history upon request.

Project notification requirements

Those conducting nonfriable asbestos abatement are required to submit a nonfriable ASN 6



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

Asbestos Program

Contact Information:

Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Multnomah, Tillamook and Washington Counties, call the **Northwest Region – Portland Office** at 503-229-5982, 503-229-5364 or 800-452-4011.

Benton, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Polk and Yamhill Counties, call the **Western Region – Salem Office** at 503-378-5086 or 800-349-7677.

Jackson, Josephine and Eastern Douglas Counties, call the **Western Region – Medford Office** at 541-776-6107 or 877-823-3216.

Coos, Curry and Western Douglas Counties, call the **Western Region – Coos Bay Office** at 541-269-2721, ext. 222.

Crook, Deschutes, Harney, Hood River, Jefferson, Klamath, Lake, Sherman and Wasco Counties, call the **Eastern Region – Bend Office** at 541-633-2019 or 866-863-6668.

Baker, Gilliam, Grant, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa and Wheeler Counties, call the **Eastern Region – Pendleton Office** at 541-278-4626 or 800-304-3513.

Lane County, call the **Lane Regional Air Protection Agency** at 541-736-1056.

Last Updated: 12/27/18
By: Laura Gleim

notification form and fee to DEQ five days prior to beginning work. Owner-occupants of single family homes conducting their own abatement are exempt from the notification requirements.

Asbestos abatement contractors conducting friable asbestos abatement are required to submit a friable ASN 1 notification form and fee to DEQ 10 days prior to beginning work. DEQ can waive the waiting period on a case-by-case basis in emergency situations.

Find more information about required notifications at www.oregon.gov/deq/Hazards-and-Cleanup/Pages/Asbestos-Forms.aspx

Waste handling and disposal

Accumulation and storage of friable asbestos containing material is prohibited. Asbestos-containing material must be packaged in a minimum of two 6-mil thick plastic bags or similar leak-tight packaging with an asbestos hazard warning label, and must be disposed of at a landfill permitted by DEQ to accept asbestos waste.

Prior to transport, asbestos waste containers must have a label attached with the name of the generator (person doing the removal) and the address from where the waste was removed. A completed Asbestos Waste Shipment Report Form (ASN 4) must be provided to the landfill at the time of disposal.

Contact the landfill prior to delivering asbestos. Landfills may have additional requirements and may only accept asbestos by appointment.

Additional information

Visit www.oregon.gov/deq/Hazards-and-Cleanup/Pages/Asbestos-for-Homeowners.aspx

Find all DEQ's asbestos requirements in [Oregon Administrative Rules 340, Division 248](#). People handling asbestos must also follow other state and local government requirements, include requirements of [Oregon OSHA](#) and [Construction Contractors Board](#).

If you have questions or need technical assistance, contact DEQ asbestos program staff.

Alternative Formats

DEQ can provide documents in an alternate format or in a language other than English upon request. Call DEQ at 800-452-4011 or email deqinfo@deq.state.or.us.

Residential Building Asbestos Survey Requirement

As of Jan. 1, 2016 new temporary Oregon rules require an accredited inspector perform an asbestos survey before a residential building is demolished. This fact sheet provides a description of the rules and where to get more information.

Asbestos fibers are a respiratory hazard proven to cause lung cancer, mesothelioma, and asbestosis. Asbestos is a danger to public health and a hazardous air pollutant for which there is no known safe level of exposure.

Senate Bill 705, passed in 2015 by the Oregon Legislature, directed DEQ to adopt rules that require an accredited inspector perform an asbestos survey before a residential building is demolished. The Environmental Quality Commission adopted temporary rules on Dec. 9, 2015.

DEQ's residential asbestos survey rule requires a thorough inspection of a residential building before any demolition activity, including intentional burning, to determine the presence of friable and nonfriable asbestos-containing material, commonly known as ACM. Asbestos consultants and many of the licensed asbestos abatement contractors can provide this service.

Demolition is defined as wrecking that involves the removal of any load-supporting structural member or intentional burning.

Only an accredited inspector may perform the asbestos survey. An accredited inspector must complete training and receive accreditation under the Model Accreditation Program training rules in 40 CFR Part 763.

A copy of the survey report must be kept onsite during the demolition project and DEQ can request a copy of the survey report. A survey includes the sampling of materials suspected to contain asbestos, laboratory analysis results to determine asbestos content and an evaluation of the materials to assess their condition.

Survey Exemptions

1. Demolition activities at residential buildings with four or fewer dwelling units that were constructed after Jan. 1, 2004 do not require an asbestos survey.
2. If all of the materials at the residential building with four or fewer dwelling units are treated, removed, handled, managed, transported and disposed of as ACM, an asbestos survey is not required.
3. For demolitions of residential buildings, DEQ has the discretion to approve, on a case-by-case basis, requests to waive the asbestos survey requirement. The owner or operator of the residential building must submit a written request, along with supporting documentation that demonstrates to DEQ's satisfaction that a survey is not warranted. The owner or operator of the residential building must obtain the DEQ's written approval waiving the survey requirement prior to any demolition activity.

Renovation activities at residential buildings with four or fewer dwelling units are exempt from the survey requirement. However, DEQ strongly suggests hiring an accredited inspector to perform an asbestos survey.

Contractors and building owners and operators are responsible for ensuring that all ACM's are properly handled, removed and disposed prior to any renovation or demolition activity. A contractor or building owner may be subject to a DEQ order with civil penalties if ACM is disturbed or mishandled in violation of rule or statute.

Find DEQ's asbestos survey rules in Oregon Administrative Rules 340, Division 248. If you have questions or need technical assistance, contact an asbestos program staff. Additional information is available on DEQ's asbestos website.

Alternative formats

Documents can be provided upon request in an alternate format for individuals with disabilities or in a language other than English for people with limited English skills. To request a document in another format or language, call DEQ in Portland at 503-229-5696, or toll-free in Oregon at 1-800-452-4011, ext. 5696; or email deqinfo@deq.state.or.us.



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