

Asbestos

What is Asbestos:

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral that is added to building materials to increase strength, make them fire-retardant, make them resistant to chemicals or make them a better insulator. The U.S. still receives thousands of tons of asbestos each year. Its use is not banned.

Potential Risk/Hazard:

Employees could be exposed to airborne microscopic asbestos fibers. Exposure can cause asbestosis, lung cancer and mesothelioma. This exposure is usually due to improper maintenance or disturbance of asbestos containing building materials during renovation or demolition activities.

How to Minimize the Risk/Hazard:

By conducting required inspections and repairs, you will be able to maintain your asbestos containing building materials (ACBM's) in a "non-friable" (not able to crumble by hand pressure) state.

Key Requirements for Compliance:

- 1. Designate**
 - Assign an asbestos Designated Person.
- 2. Inspection/Reinspection**
 - Conduct an initial asbestos inspection of the building, a periodic surveillance every six-(6) months and a re-inspection by certified personnel every three (3) years.
- 3. Documentation**
 - Maintain all of this documentation at building office for public review.
 - Provide an annual "Asbestos Notification" to all building occupants (employees & parents).
- 4. Maintenance**
 - Maintain all ACBM's in a non-friable condition. Perform removal/repair as recommended in surveillances.
- 5. Training**
 - Provide employee training on asbestos awareness within sixty-(60) days of hire.
 - Provide annual refresher training for employees working near ACBM's.
 - Provide select employees with sixteen-(16) hour operation and maintenance (O&M) training for limited in-house repair or use certified outside contractors.
 - Provide O&M trained employees with proper personal protective equipment (PPE), annual medical evaluation and annual fit testing of respirator.
- 6. Plan Renovation Activities**
 - Conduct asbestos sampling prior to disturbing any building materials including a NESHAP a pre-renovation/pre-demolition inspection prior to any building projects. Never assume materials are not asbestos-containing.

Asbestos Containing Building Materials are Damaged:

- 1. Barricade Area**
 - The immediate area with damaged materials should be sealed off/barricaded to minimize potential employee exposure.
- 2. Shut Down HVAC**
 - HVAC system/units serving the immediate area with damaged materials should be shut down.
- 3. Clean-Up by O & M Personnel**
 - If there is a very limited amount of material (a couple of pipe fittings, a few square feet of floortile, etc...) and you have an O&M trained employee, the clean-up can most likely be conducted in-house. Complete the O&M form to properly document the clean-up activities. Otherwise, contact EMC.

Planned Removal

For planned asbestos removal or planned renovation projects, a pre-renovation survey must be conducted. If asbestos materials may be impacted, abatement activities may need to occur. These may include:

- A. Certified Project Design
 - B. Two-(2) week notification to the State of Wisconsin
 - C. Certified abatement workers, with negative pressure enclosure and decontamination suite.
 - D. Final air clearance testing by PCM or TEM.
- Contact EMC for further assistance.