

Asbestos Advisory

Important information you need to know before you demolish a building

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has specific rules regarding the handling and disposal of asbestos-containing materials (ACM). DEQ regulates the removal and disposal of asbestos-containing materials to prevent asbestos fiber release and exposure. Asbestos fibers in the air pose a significant health threat to employees, the public, and the environment. Before any public or private facility is demolished all asbestos-containing materials must be properly removed, handled and disposed.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) require that an asbestos survey be performed to determine the presence of asbestos-containing materials in or on a building prior to any demolition work.

In general, there are two types of asbestos-containing materials:

Friable

Friable asbestos-containing materials (ACM) will easily release fibers when crushed. Only DEQ licensed asbestos abatement contractors and certified asbestos workers can remove and dispose of friable asbestos-containing materials. DEQ has specific training courses available that meet these certification needs. A list of DEQ licensed asbestos abatement contractors and training information can be obtained by contacting any of the offices listed below. Examples of friable ACM can include, but are not limited to the following: sheet vinyl flooring, insulation on piping, duct and boilers, fireproofing, ceiling products, popcorn ceiling texture and soundproofing.

Non-friable

Non-friable asbestos-containing materials 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. You do not need to be a DEQ licensed asbestos abatement contractor or a certified asbestos worker to perform non-friable asbestos removal.

However, the non-friable materials must remain in non-friable condition (predominantly whole pieces) during the removal and disposal process.

Examples of non-friable ACM can include, but are not limited to the following:

- Vinyl floor tile
- AC water pipe
- Cement (transite) siding or roofing

If you remove non-friable asbestos-containing materials, follow the DEQ guidance documents. In addition, a non-friable project notification and fee are required to be submitted to the DEQ five (5) days prior to the start date of the project. A copy of the guidance and project notification form can be obtained by contacting any of the offices listed below.

If you disturb asbestos-containing materials and cause employees or the public to be potentially exposed to asbestos fibers, you can be liable for the clean-up costs and an enforcement action for rule violations. An enforcement action may result in a civil penalty assessment. For further information about the asbestos regulations, contact your local 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.

For Lane County residents, 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.

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

For the area east of the Cascades, call the Bend office at (541) 388-6146, ext. 226, or the Pendleton Office at (541) 278-4626.



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

Air Quality

811 SW 6th Avenue
Portland, OR 97204
Phone: (503) 229-5359
(800) 563-4011
Fax: (503) 229-5675
www.deq.state.or.us