

Asbestos Advisory & Informational Outreach for Flooring Contractors

As a flooring contractor you need to be aware of several rules that may affect your ability to perform floor replacement, repair and maintenance activities. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Lane Regional Air Pollution Authority (LRAPA) have specific rules regarding the handling and disposal of asbestos-containing materials (ACM).

Asbestos fibers in the air pose a significant health threat to building occupants, employees, the public, and the environment. DEQ/LRAPA regulates the removal and disposal of ACM to prevent asbestos fiber release and exposure.

The DEQ requires that an asbestos survey be performed by an accredited inspector to determine the presence of ACM in or on a public or private commercial building or any residential structure that has more than four dwelling units prior to any renovation or demolition activities. Asbestos hazard consultants and many of the licensed asbestos abatement contractors can provide this service.

When the renovation activity involves a single material, such as the replacement of sheet vinyl (there could be multiple layers), there are two options:

- (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 the sheet vinyl (each layer) and have it analyzed at a laboratory. If analysis results identify that the sheet vinyl (any layer) 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. All contractors should inquire about the presence of ACM during the bidding process.

In general, there are two types of ACMs:

- **Friable** ACM will easily release fibers when crushed. An example of a friable flooring material is the felt-like backing on sheet vinyl. Only DEQ licensed asbestos abatement contractors and certified asbestos workers can remove and dispose of friable ACM. 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 a regional office listed below.
- **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. An example of a non-friable flooring material is vinyl floor tile. You do not need to be a DEQ licensed asbestos abatement contractor or a certified asbestos worker to perform nonfriable asbestos abatement. **However, the non-friable materials must remain in non-friable condition (predominantly whole pieces) during the removal and disposal process.** If you remove nonfriable asbestos-containing flooring materials, follow the DEQ guidance document. In addition, a non-friable project notification and fee are required to be submitted to the Department five (5) days prior to the start date of the project.

Nonfriable asbestos-containing waste material (ACWM) must be adequately wet and the DEQ recommends that the ACWM be packaged in leak tight containers. The ACWM must be disposed of at a landfill authorized to handle asbestos waste and should be accompanied by a waste shipment report (ASN-4) at the time of disposal. Make sure and contact the landfill before delivering the ACWM. Landfills can be more stringent than DEQ and may only accept ACWM by appointment. A copy of the guidance document, project notification, list of authorized landfills and waste shipment report can be obtained by contacting a regional office listed below.



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

Air Quality
811 SW 6th Avenue
Portland, OR 97204
Phone: (503) 229-5359
(800) 452-4011
Fax: (503) 229-5675
www.deq.state.or.us

Alternative Formats

Flooring products, such as mastic, that are fully encapsulated with a petroleum-based binder and are not hard, dry, or brittle are exempt from certain rules. The exemption will end whenever the materials are burned, crumbled, pulverized, or reduced to dust. In addition, maintenance and comparable activities limited to handling less than 3 square or 3 linear feet of ACM, provided the removal is part of a needed repair operation, may be exempt from some rules. Please contact a DEQ or LRAPA asbestos staff person for further information.

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

If you disturb or mishandle ACM and cause employees, customers, tenants, the public or the environment to be potentially exposed to asbestos fibers, you can be liable for clean-up costs and an enforcement action for rule violations. An enforcement action may include a civil penalty assessment.

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.