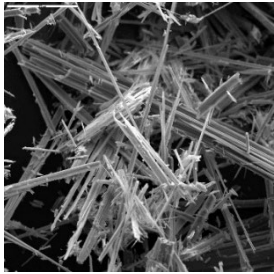


What is asbestos?

Asbestos is a group of naturally occurring minerals whose crystals form into long, thin fibers. It has been used in thousands of products because of its unique properties, such as high tensile strength, flexibility, acoustical qualities, and resistance to thermal, chemical, and electrical conditions. If inhaled, asbestos can cause diseases such as lung cancer, mesothelioma and asbestosis.



What common products contain asbestos?

Asbestos has been used in more than 3,600 different products, including, but not limited to, spray-on ceiling and wall texture, fireproofing, plaster, pipe coverings, floor tile, linoleum, duct wrap, boiler insulation, attic insulation, ceiling tile, sheetrock and sheetrock compounds, floor and wall mastics, roofing felt, concrete pipes and exterior siding.

Asbestos products are still being manufactured and imported into the United States. All suspect materials regardless of age must be assumed to be asbestos-containing until they are tested.

How do I know if I have asbestos?

The only way to determine if you have asbestos is to have samples of suspect building materials collected and submitted for analysis. Asbestos inspections must be performed by an asbestos inspector certified by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). The inspection should be conducted prior to beginning any renovation or demolition activity. Bulk samples of suspect materials must also be collected in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sampling protocol. This can be found in 40 CFR 763.86

Asbestos in materials can be identified only by using a microscope. The laboratory conducting the analysis must be accredited by the National Institute of Science and Technology (NIST) through the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP) or participate in the asbestos bulk analysis program of the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA).

When are inspections required?

All public and commercial buildings, regardless of age or construction type, must be inspected for asbestos before any renovation or demolition activity begins. This is a requirement under the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

What if the inspector finds asbestos in an area that will be renovated or demolished?

The response action depends upon the type and amount of asbestos found, whether the material will be disturbed and whether or not the asbestos-containing material (ACM) is friable or nonfriable. MDH defines friable as material that contains more than one percent (1%) asbestos and, when dry, can be crumbled, pulverized or reduced to powder by hand pressure or mechanical forces.



- In a commercial property, if more than 160 square feet, 260 linear feet, or 35 cubic feet of ACM is disturbed, the project is regulated.
- In a residential property (single family or less than five units), if more than 6 square feet, 10 linear feet or 1 cubic foot of ACM is disturbed, it is also regulated.

If the amount of material impacted is expected to exceed these amounts, a licensed asbestos contractor is required.

Can I remove asbestos myself?

Due to the multi-agency involvement with asbestos abatement regulation, specific questions about removal projects should be directed to the Asbestos and Lead Compliance Unit of MDH.



Are all commercial and public buildings covered by the MDH asbestos regulations? What about residential buildings?

All buildings within the state of Minnesota where material contains more than 1% asbestos and exceeds the regulated amounts are covered by the regulations. This also includes exterior work.

The only differences would be in the work practices that must be followed.

My building is new and I do not believe it contains asbestos. Do I still need to have it inspected?

Some asbestos materials have been banned from use and installation, whereas other asbestos materials are still used. A letter from the building architect or contractor stating that asbestos was not used in the construction can be submitted in lieu of an inspection if the building was constructed after October 1988.

Whom do I have to notify when I renovate a building that contains asbestos?

For commercial properties where the ACM to be disturbed is expected to exceed the regulated amounts, the licensed abatement contractor must submit a Notification of Intent to Perform Asbestos Removal to MDH at least five (5) calendar days in advance. In addition, a Deconstruction, Renovation, and Demolition Notification form must be submitted to the MPCA at least ten (10) working days in advance of the project start date.

For residential properties, single family homes or multi-family residences properties where the ACM to be disturbed is expected to exceed the regulated amounts, a Notification of Intent to Perform Asbestos Removal must be submitted to MDH at least five (5) calendar days in advance.

My building does not contain asbestos and will be demolished. Do I still need to notify the state?

The MPCA must be notified of all building demolitions at least ten (10) days in advance, even if asbestos is not present. In addition, local municipalities may require a permit to conduct the demolition.

What will happen if I fail to comply with these regulations?

Failure to comply with these requirements may result in enforcement, including corrective actions and penalties. Both the building owner and the contractor share the responsibility of making sure these requirements are met.



Where can I get a list of inspectors, licensed contractors and necessary forms?

All the information can be obtained by calling MDH at 651-201-4620 or by visiting [Asbestos \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/asbestos/index.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/asbestos/index.html).

For more information please contact:



Minnesota Department of Health
Environmental Health
Indoor Environments & Radiation
Section

Asbestos & Lead Compliance Unit
Freeman Building
625 Robert Street North
P.O. Box 64975
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975
Phone: 651-201-4620
Toll Free: 888-345-0823
Fax: 651-201-4606



Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Resource Management & Assistance
Division
Solid Waste Management Unit
520 Lafayette Road N
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194
Phone: 651-296-6300
Toll Free: 800-657-3864

It is highly recommended that one reach out to local government (city/county) to check on local requirements regarding permitting and notification.

11/13/2023 | To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-4620.

Before you renovate or demolish...



Information you must know about state and federal requirements regarding asbestos.