

Asbestos Information For Residential Homeowners

DEQ and Lane Regional Air Protection Agency, known as LRAPA, have specific rules regarding the handling, removal and disposal of asbestos-containing materials, commonly referred to as ACM. DEQ and LRAPA regulate the abatement of ACM to prevent asbestos fiber release and exposure.

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.

Asbestos in your home may be a hazard depending on its condition. If the ACM is in stable condition, not damaged and well-sealed, it is considered safe and need not be removed.

If there is ACM in or on your owner occupied single family residence that needs to be removed, there are two options for abatement. One option is to hire an Oregon DEQ licensed asbestos abatement contractor to abate the ACM. The second option allows the homeowner to abate the ACM themselves.

Survey Requirement

DEQ's residential asbestos survey rule requires a thorough asbestos survey by an accredited inspector to determine the presence of ACM prior to any demolition activities, including intentional burning. A survey is not required for residential buildings with four or fewer dwelling units constructed after Jan. 1, 2004. A copy of the asbestos survey is required to be onsite during all demolition activities and DEQ can request a copy of the asbestos survey. Asbestos consultants and many of the asbestos abatement contractors can provide this service.

Renovation activities at residential buildings with four or fewer dwelling units are exempt from the survey requirements. DEQ strongly suggests hiring an accredited inspector to perform an asbestos survey in order to avoid accidental exposure to asbestos fibers.

Contractors and homeowners are responsible for any asbestos rule violations that may occur from renovation or demolition activities in or on their structure.

Asbestos-Containing Materials

In general, there are two types of ACMs:

- **Friable** ACM will easily release asbestos fibers when crushed, crumbled or pulverized.

Examples of **friable** ACM include, but are not limited to: sheet vinyl flooring, insulation on pipes, ductwork and boilers, fireproofing, ceiling texture and panel products, and soundproofing.

- **Nonfriable** ACM has a binder that holds the asbestos fibers within a solid matrix so asbestos fibers will not easily release 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 nonfriable asbestos abatement. **However, the nonfriable materials must remain in nonfriable condition and predominantly whole pieces during the removal and disposal process.**

Examples of **nonfriable** ACM include, but are not limited to: vinyl floor tile, asbestos-containing water pipe, and cement siding, roofing or paneling, also known as transite.

Homeowner Abatement

If the owner occupant of a single-family residence decides to conduct the asbestos abatement themselves, DEQ can provide guidance documents that have instructions for the safe removal of friable and nonfriable ACM. This does not apply when the residence is going to be demolished.

Waste Handling and Disposal

All asbestos-containing waste material, referred to as ACWM, must be disposed of at a landfill permitted to accept asbestos waste. Friable ACWM must be kept adequately wet and packaged in a minimum of two 6-mil thick plastic bags with an asbestos hazard warning label. Nonfriable ACWM must be kept adequately wet and DEQ recommends that the nonfriable ACWM be packaged in leak-tight containers.

During transport, friable ACWM containers must have a label attached with the name of the generator (person doing the removal) and the address from where the ACM was removed. A completed ASN 4 waste shipment report must be



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

Asbestos Program
www.oregon.gov

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.

provided to the permitted landfill at the time of disposal. For nonfriable ACWM the waste shipment report should also be provided to the permitted landfill at the time of disposal.

Contact the landfill prior to delivering ACWM. Landfills can be more stringent than DEQ and may only accept ACWM by appointment.

Accumulation of any friable ACM or ACWM is prohibited. This includes nonfriable material that is shattered, pulverized, or rendered friable, regardless of the source or original condition of the materials.

Abatement by a Contractor

If the homeowner decides to hire a contractor to abate friable ACM from their home, the contractor must be a [DEQ licensed asbestos abatement contractor](#) and all workers must be appropriately certified. DEQ can also provide information on an abatement contractor's compliance history.

Contractors must file a project notification with DEQ. The completed notification and fee must be received by DEQ's Business Office ten days prior to the start date of a friable project and five days prior to the start date of a nonfriable project. DEQ can waive the waiting period on a case by case basis in emergency situations.

To evaluate asbestos problems in the home, contact an asbestos abatement contractor or an asbestos consultant. If you have questions or concerns about how a contractor is handling ACM, contact DEQ.

Contact asbestos program staff for friable guidance documents.

Find DEQ's asbestos survey rules in Oregon Administrative Rules 340, Division 248. If you have questions or need technical assistance, contact asbestos program staff.

Alternative Formats

Alternative formats of this document can be made available. For more information call 503-229-5696, Portland, or call toll-free in Oregon at 1-800-452-4011, ext. 5696. Hearing-impaired persons may call 711.