

Asbestos Information

What contractors and business owners need to know before starting renovation or demolition

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality regulates the handling, removal and disposal of asbestos-containing material to protect public health and the environment.

Asbestos is a natural occurring mineral that has been used extensively in a variety of construction materials in the U.S. When asbestos-containing material is disturbed, tiny hazardous asbestos fibers are released into the air and may cause lung cancer and other illnesses. There's no known safe level of exposure to asbestos.

If you perform or manage remodeling, renovation, repair, maintenance or demolition activities, you need to be aware of the rules that may affect your ability to perform these activities.

Before any building is renovated or demolished, all asbestos-containing materials must be identified and properly abated. Abatement includes handling, removing, disposing, repairing, salvaging, enclosing or encapsulating any asbestos-containing materials.

Demolition and renovation

Demolition is defined as wrecking or removing a load-supporting structural feature of a facility together with related handling operations or the intentional burning of a facility.

Renovation is defined as altering one or more facility components that does not involve removing load-supporting structural features. Renovation includes the replacing, stripping or repairing of facility components, such as mechanical ventilation systems, pipes, ceilings, walls, flooring and insulating materials.

Asbestos survey requirements

All commercial buildings regardless of construction date and residential buildings constructed before Jan. 1, 2004 must have an asbestos survey conducted by an accredited inspector prior to any demolition or renovation activities.

A complete copy of the asbestos survey report must be on-site during all renovation or demolition activities, and must be provided to DEQ upon request.

Find more information about asbestos survey and report requirements at <https://go.usa.gov/xdffHR>

Types of asbestos materials

There are two general types of asbestos-containing materials, friable and nonfriable, which have different abatement requirements.

Friable asbestos-containing materials are easily crushed, crumbled or pulverized. Examples of friable materials include sheet vinyl flooring, insulation on pipes, ductwork and boilers, fireproofing, ceiling and wall texture, ceiling panels and soundproofing materials.

Eligible to perform friable abatement:

- DEQ licensed asbestos abatement contractors.
- Owner-occupants of a single unit private residence (for projects in the interior of the house only)

Nonfriable asbestos-containing materials have a binder that holds the asbestos fibers within a solid matrix so asbestos fibers will not easily release unless mishandled or damaged. Examples of nonfriable materials include vinyl floor tile, black mastic, cement water pipe, and cement siding, roofing or paneling.

Eligible to perform nonfriable abatement:

- DEQ licensed asbestos abatement contractors



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

Asbestos Program

700 NE Multnomah St.,
Suite 600
Portland, OR 97232
Phone: 503-229-5696
800-452-4011
Fax: 503-229-6124
www.oregon.gov/DEQ

- Home, business, and property owners
- Construction Contractors Board licensed contractors

Nonfriable materials must remain in predominantly whole pieces and must be kept adequately wet throughout the removal and disposal process. If nonfriable materials are crushed, crumbled or pulverized, they become friable and can only be handled and disposed of by DEQ-licensed asbestos abatement contractors.

Project notification requirements

Those conducting nonfriable asbestos abatement are required to submit a nonfriable (ASN-6) notification and fee to DEQ five days prior to beginning work.

DEQ licensed asbestos abatement contractors conducting friable asbestos abatement are required to submit a friable (ASN-1) project notification and fee to DEQ 10 days prior to beginning work. DEQ can waive the waiting period on a case-by-case basis in emergency situations.

Find more information about required notifications at <https://go.usa.gov/xdFAy>

Waste handling and disposal

Open accumulation and storage of friable asbestos containing material or asbestos containing waste material is prohibited. Asbestos-containing waste material, both friable and nonfriable, must be packaged in a minimum of two 6-mil thick plastic bags or similar leak-tight packaging with an asbestos hazard warning label, and must be disposed of at a disposal facility permitted by DEQ to accept asbestos waste.

Prior to transport, asbestos waste containers must have a label attached with the name of the generator (person doing the removal) and the address from where the waste was removed. A completed Asbestos Waste Shipment Report Form (ASN-4) must be provided to the permitted disposal facility at the time of disposal.

Contact the permitted disposal facility prior to delivering asbestos waste. Disposal facilities may have additional requirements and may only accept asbestos waste by appointment.

Special considerations

Some materials and projects are exempt from certain rules.

- **Small projects:** Maintenance and comparable repair activities limited to less than three square feet or three linear feet, provided the removal of asbestos is not the primary objective and is part of a needed repair operation, may be exempt from certain rules.
- **Roofing and mastics** that are fully encapsulated with a petroleum based binder and are not hard, dry or brittle are exempt from certain rules. The exemption ends if the materials are burned, crumbled, pulverized or reduced to dust.
- **Cement pipe:** It is prohibited to abandon asbestos-containing cement pipe in the ground once it has been exposed. There are special cases that allow cement pipe to be left in the ground, such as when the asbestos-containing cement pipe is under an existing roadway or under a building.
- **Siding:** Installation of new siding over cement asbestos siding is prohibited because the installation process renders the cement siding friable. Sanding, grinding, abrading, or the use of power tools on cement asbestos board is prohibited.

Additional information

Visit <https://go.usa.gov/xdG4K>

Find all DEQ's asbestos requirements in [Oregon Administrative Rules 340, Division 248](#). People handling asbestos must also follow other state and local government requirements, including requirements of [Oregon OSHA](#) and [Construction Contractors Board](#).

If you have questions or need technical assistance, contact asbestos program staff listed below.

If asbestos-containing material is disturbed or mishandled, it may expose the public to asbestos fibers. Violations of asbestos rules and statutes may subject the contractor or business owner to civil penalties.

Alternative Formats

DEQ can provide documents in an alternate format or in a language other than English upon request. Call DEQ at 800-452-4011 or email deqinfo@deq.state.or.us.

Asbestos Program Contacts

Office	Address	Phone	Counties
Portland	700 NE Multnomah St. Suite 600 Portland, OR 97232	503-229-5982 or 800-452-4011	Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Multnomah, Tillamook, Washington
Salem	4026 Fairview Industrial Dr. Salem, OR 97801	503-378-5086 or 800-349-7677	Benton, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Polk, Yamhill
Medford	221 Steward Ave. Ste. 201 Medford, OR 97501	541-776-6107 or 877-823-3216	Jackson, Josephine, Eastern Douglas County
Coos Bay	381 N Second St. Coos Bay, OR 97420	541-269-2721, Ext. 222	Coos, Curry, Western Douglas County
Bend	475 NE Bellevue Dr. Suite 110 Bend, OR 97701	541-633-2019 or 866-863-6668	Crook, Deschutes, Harney, Hood River, Jefferson, Klamath, Lake, Sherman, Wasco
Pendleton	800 SE Emigrant Ave. Suite 330 Pendleton, OR 97801	541-278-4626 or 800-304-3513	Baker, Gilliam, Grant, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Wheeler
Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA)	1010 Main St. Springfield, OR 97477	541-736-1056	Lane