

Asbestos Information

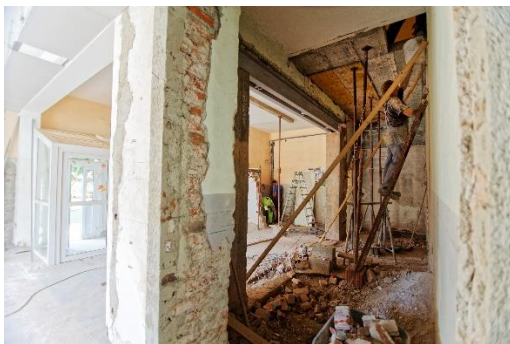
What contractors and business owners need to know before starting renovation or demolition

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 fibers are released into the air and may cause lung cancer and other illnesses. There's no known safe level of exposure.

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.



Asbestos survey requirements

All commercial buildings regardless of construction date and residential buildings constructed before 2004 must have an asbestos survey conducted by an accredited inspector prior to any demolition or renovation activities done by a contractor, business owner or property manager.

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

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, underlayment, insulation on pipes, ductwork and boilers, fireproofing, ceiling texture, roof paper commonly found under wood shingles, silver roof paint, and soundproofing material.

Eligible to perform friable abatement:

- Licensed asbestos abatement contractors and certified asbestos workers. DEQ has training courses that meet these certification needs
- Owner-occupants of single family homes

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 siding, roofing or paneling, also known as transite.

Eligible to perform nonfriable abatement:

- Licensed asbestos abatement contractors
- Home, business, and property owners
- Construction Contractors Board (CCB) 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 or crumbled, they become friable and can only be handled and disposed of by DEQ-licensed asbestos 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. Owner-occupants of single family homes conducting their own abatement are exempt from the notification requirements.



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

Asbestos Program

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.

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 www.oregon.gov/deq/Hazards-and-Cleanup/Pages/Asbestos-Forms.aspx

Waste handling and disposal

Accumulation and storage of friable asbestos containing material is prohibited. Asbestos waste material 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 landfill 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 landfill at the time of disposal.

Contact the landfill prior to delivering asbestos. Landfills may have additional requirements and may only accept asbestos by appointment.

Special considerations

Some materials and projects are exempt from certain rules.

- **Asbestos survey exception:** Owner-occupants of a single family home doing their own home renovation work are exempt from the asbestos survey requirement.
- **Small projects:** Maintenance and comparable activities limited to less than three square feet or three linear feet, provided the removal is part of a needed repair operation, may be exempt from certain rules.

- **Roofing and flooring** 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's 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 AC cement pipe is under an existing roadway or under a building.
- **Siding:** Installation of new siding over transite is not allowed because the installation process renders the transite friable. Sanding, grinding, abrading, or the use of power tools on transite is prohibited.

Additional information

Visit <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/Hazards-and-Cleanup/Pages/Asbestos-for-Businesses.aspx>

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, include requirements of [Oregon OSHA](#) and [Construction Contractors Board](#).

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

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.