

Asbestos Program

How to Remove Nonfriable Cement Asbestos Materials

A Guide for Meeting DEQ Rules

Purpose

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) regulates the removal, handling and disposal of asbestos-containing materials during construction, remodeling, and demolition. This document provides guidance for removing nonfriable cement asbestos materials.

Before you start

Contact one of the DEQ regional offices (see contact information to the right) for information on complying with Oregon's asbestos program regulations.

If the project is taking place in a school (K-12), you must comply with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) rules from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Contact the EPA's regional office at 800-424-4372 for current rule and policy information.

Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OR-OSHA) also has rules for working with asbestos-containing materials. Contact OR-OSHA at 503-378-3272 for current rule and policy information.

How to determine if a material contains asbestos

The only way to determine if a material contains asbestos is to take a sample and have it analyzed by an accredited laboratory.

What are cement asbestos materials?

Cement asbestos products may include shingles, siding, HVAC ducts, chimney flues, and other general construction materials. They may also go by the product name of Transite. The cement acts as a binder that holds the asbestos fibers within a solid matrix. This will prevent asbestos fibers from being released easily, unless mishandled, damaged, or in badly weathered condition. In most cases, cement asbestos materials are considered nonfriable.

Removing nonfriable asbestos-containing materials

The removal of nonfriable asbestos-containing materials in good condition is exempt from some DEQ rules. You **do not** need to be a DEQ licensed asbestos contractor or a DEQ certified asbestos worker to do nonfriable asbestos removal. If you remove cement asbestos materials following this guide, the cement materials should remain in nonfriable condition.



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.

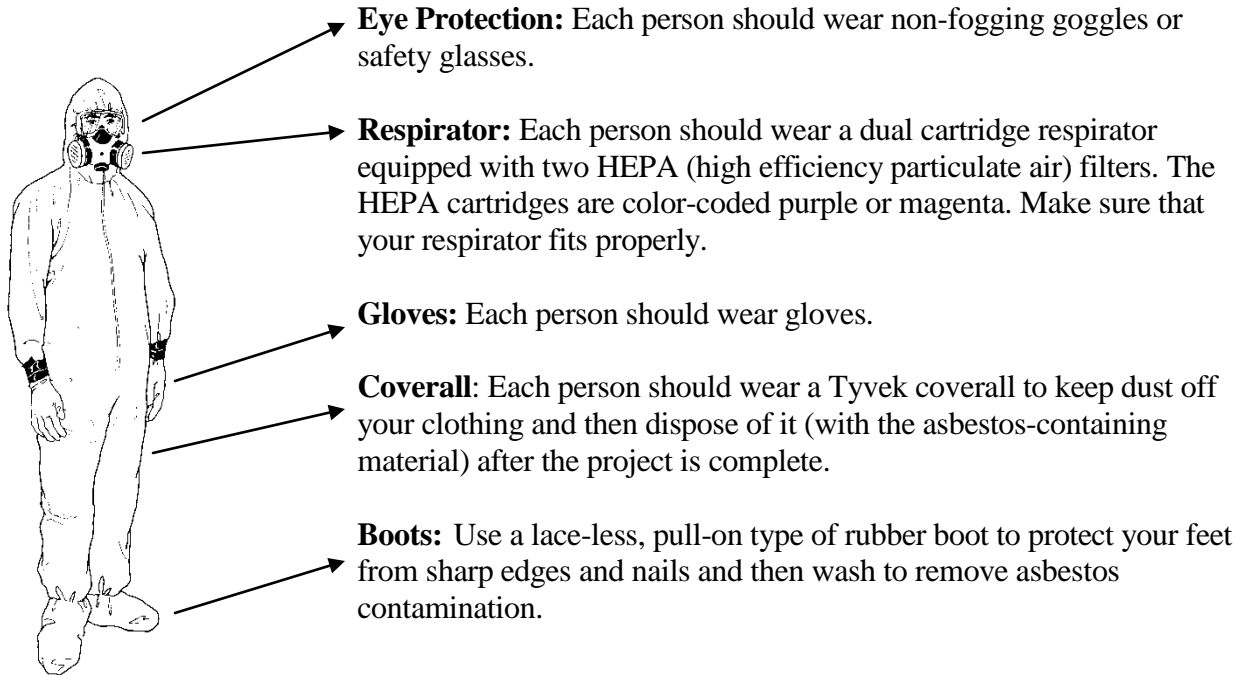
Crook, Deschutes, Harney, Hood River, Jefferson, Klamath, Lake, Sherman and Wasco Counties, call the **Eastern Region – Bend Office** at 541-633-2019 or 866-863-6668.

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.

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Suggested safety equipment



Eye Protection: Each person should wear non-fogging goggles or safety glasses.

Respirator: Each person should wear a dual cartridge respirator equipped with two HEPA (high efficiency particulate air) filters. The HEPA cartridges are color-coded purple or magenta. Make sure that your respirator fits properly.

Gloves: Each person should wear gloves.

Coverall: Each person should wear a Tyvek coverall to keep dust off your clothing and then dispose of it (with the asbestos-containing material) after the project is complete.

Boots: Use a lace-less, pull-on type of rubber boot to protect your feet from sharp edges and nails and then wash to remove asbestos contamination.

Tools needed

- Water sprayer, garden type or spray bottle, or a garden hose with spray nozzle
- 3 to 6-mil thick plastic sheeting
- Razor knife
- Flat “L” shaped pry-bar (Wonder-bar)
- Tool to remove nails, such as a nail puller, vise grip or pliers
- Heavy-duty wire cutters
- Leak-tight containers, such as plastic bags, barrels or plastic wrapping

The work will be difficult

Even under the best conditions these projects are physically demanding and potentially dangerous. The following are some of the problems you will be faced with:

- Breathing through a respirator is difficult and places extra stress on the heart and lungs.
- Coveralls can be hot and hard to move around in.
- Work will involve ladders since some of the materials are located in high areas.
- Goggles and safety glasses reduce visibility and field of vision.
- Care must be taken around electric wires because water is being used to keep the asbestos wet.
- The work area will be slick from wetting and become a slipping or tripping hazard.

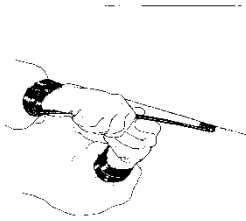
Notification

File a DEQ notification form ASN 6 for removal of nonfriable asbestos materials and pay the applicable fee. The notification must be received by the DEQ Business Office at least 5 days prior to starting the removal project. *If you are the owner occupant of a single-family dwelling doing asbestos removal on the home you live in, you do not need to file a notification.*

Procedures for removing nonfriable cement asbestos materials

Cement asbestos materials must be removed, handled and disposed of in a manner that keeps the material in predominantly whole pieces to be considered nonfriable. The method of removal cannot shatter (broken into 4

or more pieces), crumble, pulverize, or reduce the material to dust. Sanding, sawing, grinding, chipping, or use of power tools is not allowed.



Step 1 - Keep the material wet while you remove it. Wetting minimizes asbestos fibers from being released during removal. The material must remain wet during removal and until waste disposal occurs.

Step 2 - Put plastic sheeting on the ground under the work area to contain pieces that may fall.



Step 3 - Use a razor knife and cut the paint seal around areas that were previously painted.



Step 4 - Remove screws or gently pry up material using a flat bar or similar tool so that the nail heads are exposed and can be pulled out, or clipped off with heavy-duty wire cutters.



Step 5 - Take cement materials off in *whole pieces*, do not break material on purpose, do not step on material, do not drop material, and do not throw material from ladders. Place the material on the ground in a non-work area or in separate containers to prevent breakage. Once the material has been removed, it may not be broken further.

Note: If the material cannot be removed without shattering (broken into more than 4 pieces), you must follow the requirements for friable asbestos-containing materials.

Step 6 - Place the cement asbestos materials in a leak-tight container and mark it with the warning statement "DANGER ASBESTOS-CONTAINING MATERIAL."

Step 7 - Locate a landfill that is authorized to accept asbestos waste and be sure to inquire about hours of operation and any special packaging requirements they might have. Fill out a DEQ waste shipment report ASN 4 and give it to the landfill upon arrival.

If the material becomes friable

If the cement asbestos material becomes shattered, damaged, or is badly weathered, it is considered friable and may release asbestos fibers. If the cement asbestos material becomes friable, stop work immediately and promptly contact a DEQ licensed asbestos abatement contractor. Friable asbestos materials must be removed by a **DEQ licensed asbestos contractor using DEQ certified workers**.

All asbestos abatement rules under OAR 340-248-0005 through -0280 must be followed. A DEQ notification form ASN 1 for the removal of friable asbestos and the applicable fee must be filed. The notification must be received by the DEQ Business Office at least 10 days prior to starting the removal project. For emergency situations a waiver of the 10-day period may be granted by the DEQ. For more information contact DEQ.

Alternative Formats

Alternative formats of this document can be made available. Contact DEQ for more information at 503-229-5696.