

Oregon's Updated Asbestos Rules

Fall 2018

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

What's asbestos?

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.

Asbestos requirements

In fall 2018, Oregon adopted additional asbestos regulations.

DEQ requires property owners and contractors to identify asbestos-containing material and to properly handle, package and dispose of asbestos waste from demolition and renovation projects.

New requirement 1:

Residential renovation asbestos survey

All residential buildings constructed prior to Jan. 1, 2004 must now have an asbestos survey conducted by an accredited asbestos inspector prior to demolition and renovation activities. There is one primary exception: owner-occupants doing their own home renovation work are exempt from this rule. However, this exemption does not apply when the residence is going to be demolished.

Previous rules exempted residential renovation projects from the asbestos survey requirement. Requiring an asbestos survey for residential renovation projects ensures property owners and contractors know whether or not materials that will be impacted by renovation contain asbestos. This requirement reduces the risk that homeowners, contractors, neighbors and disposal site workers could be inadvertently exposed or sites contaminated with asbestos.



New requirement 2:

Updated disposal requirements for nonfriable waste materials

Nonfriable asbestos waste must now be packaged the same as friable waste. Friable materials are those that can be easily crushed, crumbled, or pulverized and release asbestos fibers.

Nonfriable materials can become friable if improperly handled, increasing the risk of exposure to asbestos fibers. Applying the same packaging standard for nonfriable and friable materials streamlines the packaging requirements for all asbestos waste and ensures a safer work environment for employees, residents, neighbors and disposal facility workers.

New requirement 3:

Accredited laboratories for asbestos testing

By Jan. 1, 2021, asbestos survey bulk samples must be analyzed by a laboratory that participates in a nationally recognized accreditation or testing program.

This new requirement establishes a common level of competency and reliability in analysis to properly identify asbestos content. DEQ will maintain a public list of accredited laboratories on its website beginning Jan. 1, 2021.



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

Asbestos Program

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800-452-4011
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www.oregon.gov/DEQ

New requirement 4:

Asbestos survey reports

Asbestos survey reports must now meet standard requirements. This requirement ensures all asbestos surveys evaluate and report consistent information. Learn more about asbestos survey requirements at: <https://go.usa.gov/xdFAq>

Overview of Oregon's asbestos rules

Asbestos survey:

DEQ requires an accredited inspector conduct an asbestos survey prior to demolition and renovation activities on:

- Residential renovation and demolition projects on buildings constructed before Jan. 1, 2004.
- All commercial renovation and demolition projects regardless of construction date.

Asbestos abatement project notification:

The owner, operator or contractor for the facility must submit notifications to DEQ prior to beginning asbestos abatement work. Required notifications include:

- ASN-1 Project Notification for abatement of friable asbestos-containing material.
- ASN-6 Project Notification for nonfriable asbestos abatement.

Owner-occupants performing renovation projects on their homes are exempt from the notification requirements. Find information about required notification forms at: <https://go.usa.gov/xdFAy>

Friable asbestos abatement:

Friable asbestos-containing materials are easily crushed, crumbled or pulverized. Only DEQ-licensed asbestos abatement contractors and owner-occupants doing work inside their own residence may perform friable abatement projects.

An owner-occupant is a person who owns and lives in a single unit private residence. The owner-occupant is required to properly package the asbestos waste material before transferring the material outside their home and must dispose of the asbestos waste at a disposal facility permitted by DEQ to accept asbestos waste.

Work practice requirements for licensed asbestos abatement contractors removing friable materials:

- Friable asbestos abatement must occur within a negative-pressure enclosure through a HEPA filtration system. The enclosure must have a two-foot by two-foot viewing window installed per 5,000 square-feet of enclosure space, when spatially feasible.
- Wet methods must be applied during asbestos removal and packaging.

Nonfriable asbestos abatement:

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. Nonfriable asbestos abatement projects can be conducted by licensed asbestos abatement contractors, Construction Contractors Board licensed contractors, homeowners, business owners and property owners, provided the nonfriable material is not rendered friable during removal, packaging and disposal.

Waste handling and disposal:

Open accumulation and storage of friable asbestos-containing material and asbestos-containing waste material is prohibited. Asbestos-containing 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 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.

More information

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

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.

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