

Asbestos Information

What homeowners need to know about asbestos before starting renovation projects

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.

Asbestos in your home may be a hazard depending on its condition. If the asbestos-containing material is stable, undamaged, and well-sealed, it's considered safe and doesn't need to be removed as long as it remains undamaged.

There are two options for asbestos abatement in owner-occupied single family homes. The owner-occupant of a home may: 1) hire a licensed asbestos abatement contractor, or 2) remove the asbestos themselves. Homeowners choosing to remove the asbestos themselves must follow Oregon's requirements for asbestos waste packaging and disposal.



How to prepare for renovation

Asbestos survey: All houses and other residential buildings constructed before 2004 must have an asbestos survey conducted by an accredited inspector prior to any demolition or renovation activities, with one main exception. Owner-occupants doing their own home renovation work are exempt from this rule. The owner-occupant exemption does not apply when the residence is going to be demolished. 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, insulation on pipes, ductwork and boilers, fireproofing, ceiling texture and panel products, and soundproofing.

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, water pipe, and cement 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

Hiring a contractor

If a homeowner decides to hire a contractor, it's important to ensure the contractor has the required credentials.

Only a DEQ-licensed asbestos abatement contractor may perform projects with friable materials. A list of DEQ licensed asbestos abatement contractors is available at: oregon.gov/deq/FilterDocs/asb-contr.pdf

DEQ can provide information on an abatement contractor's compliance history upon request.

Project notification requirements

Those conducting nonfriable asbestos abatement are required to submit a nonfriable ASN 6



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.

notification form 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.

Asbestos abatement contractors conducting friable asbestos abatement are required to submit a friable ASN 1 notification form 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-containing 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.

Additional information

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

Asbestos requirements are detailed in Oregon Administrative Rules 340, Division 248.

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

Alternative Formats

Documents can be provided upon request in an alternate format for individuals with disabilities or in a language other than English for people with limited English skills. To request a document in another format or language, call DEQ in Portland at 503-229-5696, or toll-free in Oregon at 1-800-452-4011, ext. 5696; or email deqinfo@deq.state.or.us.