

## Asbestos Information for Homeowners

Asbestos fibers pose a significant health threat to, homeowners, building occupants, employees, the public and the environment. DEQ regulates the removal and disposal of asbestos-containing materials (ACM) to prevent asbestos fiber release and exposure.

Asbestos in your home may be hazardous to your health, depending on its condition. As long as the ACM is in stable condition, not damaged and well-sealed, it is considered safe and need not be removed.

If there is ACM in or on your owner occupied home (single family residence) that needs to be removed, there are two options for handling those ACMs. One option is to hire an Oregon DEQ [licensed asbestos abatement contractor](#) to remove the ACM. The other option allows the homeowner to remove the ACM themselves.

### Survey Requirement

DEQ requires an asbestos survey be performed by an accredited inspector to determine the presence of ACM in or on a structure prior to any renovation or demolition activities. Asbestos hazard consultants and many of the licensed asbestos abatement contractors can provide this service.

The survey rule does not apply to residential buildings with four or fewer dwelling units or owners of a single private residence that is not used as a rental property, commercial business, or intended for demolition. However, contractors and homeowners are responsible for any asbestos rule violations that may occur from renovation or demolition work in or on their structure when a survey is not performed.

When the renovation activity performed by a contractor involves a single material, such as the replacement of sheet vinyl (there can be multiple layers), there are two options DEQ recommends for determining the presence of asbestos:

1. You may presume the sheet vinyl contains asbestos and have it abated by a licensed asbestos abatement contractor.
2. You can collect a sample of each layer of sheet vinyl and have it analyzed at a laboratory. If the analysis results identify that any layer of sheet vinyl contains

asbestos, a licensed asbestos abatement contractor must abate the materials.

There is a fact sheet specific to the building survey requirement available online: <http://www.deq.state.or.us/aq/factsheets/06-NWR-008-ASBSurvey.pdf>

A list of consultants, laboratories, abatement contractors and the building survey fact sheet can be found online or by contacting a regional office listed below: <http://www.deq.state.or.us/aq/asbestos>

### Asbestos-containing Materials

In general, there are two types of ACMs:

- **Friable** ACM will easily release fibers when crushed. Examples of friable ACM include, but are not limited to: sheet vinyl flooring, insulation on piping, duct and boilers, fireproofing, ceiling texture and panel products, and soundproofing.
- **Non-friable** ACM have a binder that holds the asbestos fibers within a solid matrix and will not allow asbestos fibers to release easily, unless mishandled, damaged, or in badly worn or weathered condition. **Non-friable materials must remain in non-friable condition (predominantly whole pieces) during the removal and disposal process.** Examples of non-friable ACM include, but are not limited to: vinyl floor tile, AC water pipe, and cement (transite) siding or roofing.

### Homeowner Abatement

If the owner occupant of a single-family residence decides to conduct the asbestos abatement themselves, DEQ can provide guidance documents with instructions for the safe removal of friable and non-friable ACM. A copy of the guidance documents can be obtained by contacting a regional office listed below.

- [Handling asbestos in your home](#)

### Waste Handling and Disposal

All asbestos-containing waste materials (ACWM) must be disposed of in accordance with DEQ disposal rules at a landfill authorized to handle asbestos waste. Friable ACWM must



State of Oregon  
Department of  
Environmental  
Quality

### Air Quality Asbestos

811 SW 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Portland, OR 97204  
Phone: (503) 229-5388  
(800) 452-4011  
Fax: (503) 229-5675  
Contact: Cory-Ann Wind  
[www.oregon.gov/DEQ/](http://www.oregon.gov/DEQ/)

be adequately wet and packaged in a minimum of two 6-mil thick plastic bags that are pre-labeled with the appropriate asbestos hazard warning signs. Non-friable asbestos-containing waste material must be adequately wet and DEQ recommends it be packaged in leak tight containers.

During transport, friable ACWM containers must have a label attached with the name of the generator (person doing the removal) and the address where the asbestos was removed. A DEQ waste shipment report ([ASN 4](#)) must also accompany friable ACWM to the authorized landfill. The waste shipment report should also be used when delivering non-friable ACWM to an authorized landfill.

Contact the authorized landfill prior to disposal to let them know you are bringing in asbestos waste and to discuss any further restrictions required by that landfill.

Accumulation of any friable ACM or ACWM is prohibited. This includes non-friable material that is shattered or pulverized (rendered friable), regardless of the source or original condition of the materials.

### **Abatement by Contractor**

If the homeowner decides to hire a contractor to remove friable ACM from their home, the contractor must be a DEQ licensed asbestos abatement contractor and all workers must be certified by the DEQ. A list of licensed asbestos abatement contractors can be found online: <http://www.deq.state.or.us/aq/asbestos/index.htm>

DEQ can also provide information on a contractor's compliance history with the asbestos rules. Contact the regional office listed below.

Contractors must file a project notification with the DEQ. The completed notification and fee must be received by DEQ ten (10) days prior to the start date of a friable project and five (5) days prior to the start date of a non-friable project. DEQ can waive the waiting period on a case by case basis in emergency situations. Call DEQ to determine if your project qualifies for this waiver. **Only DEQ can grant a waiver of the waiting period and waivers must be requested and granted prior to the start of any asbestos removal work.**

To evaluate asbestos problems in the home contact an asbestos abatement contractor or an asbestos consultant. If you have any questions or concerns about how a contractor is removing or handling ACM, please contact DEQ.

Copies of the guidance document, building survey fact sheet, consultant, laboratory, abatement contractor and landfill lists, project notification and waste shipment report can be found online:

<http://www.deq.state.or.us/aq/asbestos>

### **Contact information**

Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Multnomah, Tillamook and Washington Counties, call the Gresham office at 503-667-8414 ext. 55022.

Benton, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Polk and Yamhill Counties, call the Salem office at 503-378-5086 or 800-349-7677.

Lane County, call the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency at 541-736-1056 ext. 222.

Jackson, Josephine and Eastern Douglas Counties, call the Medford office at 541-776-6107 or 877-823-3216.

Coos, Curry and Western Douglas Counties, call the Coos Bay office at 541-269-2721 ext. 222.

Crook, Deschutes, Harney, Hood River, Jefferson, Klamath, Lake, Sherman, and Wasco Counties, call the Bend office at 541-633-2019.

Baker, Gilliam, Grant, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, and Wheeler Counties, call the Pendleton office at 541-278-4626 or 800-304-3513.

### **Accessibility information**

*DEQ is committed to accommodating people with disabilities. Please notify DEQ of any special physical or language accommodations or if you need information in large print, Braille or another format.*

*To make these arrangements, contact DEQ Communications and Outreach in Portland at 503-229-5696 or call toll-free in Oregon at 800-452-4011; fax to 503-229-6762; or email [deqinfo@deq.state.or.us](mailto:deqinfo@deq.state.or.us).*

*People with hearing impairments may call 711.*