

Fact Sheet

Asbestos Advisory

Important information you need to know before you demolish a building

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Lane Regional Air Pollution Authority (LRAPA) have specific rules regarding the handling and disposal of asbestos-containing materials (ACM). DEQ/LRAPA regulates the removal and disposal of ACM to prevent asbestos fiber release and exposure. Asbestos fibers in the air pose a significant health threat to employees, the public, and the environment. Before any public or private facility is demolished, all ACM must be properly removed, handled and disposed.

The 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 demolition activities. Asbestos hazard consultants and many of the asbestos abatement contractors can provide this service. There is a Fact Sheet specific to the building survey requirement available that is outlined in a question/answer format. A list of consultants, abatement contractors and the building survey Fact Sheet can be obtained by contacting a regional office listed below.

In general, there are two types of ACMs:

- **Friable ACM** will easily release fibers when crushed. Only DEQ licensed asbestos abatement contractors and certified asbestos workers can remove and dispose of friable ACM. DEQ has specific training courses available that meet these certification needs. A list of DEQ licensed asbestos abatement contractors and training information can be obtained by contacting a regional office listed below. Examples of friable ACM can include, but are not limited to the following: sheet vinyl flooring, insulation on piping, duct and boilers, fireproofing, ceiling texture and panel products, and soundproofing.
- **Nonfriable ACM** has 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. You do not need to be a DEQ licensed asbestos abatement contractor or a certified asbestos worker to perform nonfriable asbestos abatement. **However, the nonfriable**

materials must remain in nonfriable condition (predominantly whole pieces) during the removal and disposal process. Examples of nonfriable ACM can include, but are not limited to the following: vinyl floor tile, AC water pipe, and cement (transite) siding or roofing. If you remove nonfriable ACM, follow the instructions in the DEQ guidance documents. In addition, a nonfriable project notification and fee are required to be submitted to the Department five (5) days prior to the start date of the project.

Nonfriable asbestos-containing waste material (ACWM) should be kept adequately wet and the DEQ recommends that the ACWM be packaged in leak tight containers. The ACWM must be disposed of at a landfill authorized to handle asbestos waste and should be accompanied by a waste shipment report (ASN 4) at the time of disposal.

Make sure and contact the landfill prior to delivering the ACWM. Landfills can be more stringent than the DEQ and may only accept ACWM by appointment. A copy of the guidance documents, project notification, list of authorized landfills and waste shipment report can be obtained by contacting a regional office listed below.

If you disturb or mishandle ACM and cause employees, the public or the environment to be potentially exposed to asbestos fibers, you can be liable for clean-up costs and an enforcement action for rule violations. An enforcement action may include a civil penalty assessment.

Copies of the guidance documents, building survey Fact Sheet, consultant, abatement contractor and landfill lists, project notification, and waste shipment forms can be found on the DEQ web page at www.deq.state.or.us/air/asbestos. For further information about the asbestos regulations, contact a regional office.

For Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Multnomah, Tillamook and Washington Counties, call the Gresham office at (503) 667-8414 ext. 55018, or 55022, or (800) 452-4611.



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