

Asbestos Information

What contractors and business owners need to know before starting renovation or demolition

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.

If you perform or manage remodeling, renovation, repair, maintenance or demolition activities, you need to be aware of the rules that may affect your ability to perform these activities.

Before any building is renovated or demolished, all asbestos-containing materials must be identified and properly abated. Abatement includes handling, removing, disposing, repairing, salvaging, enclosing or encapsulating any asbestos-containing materials.



Asbestos survey requirements

All commercial buildings regardless of construction date and 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 available only to owner-occupants of single family homes. Owner-occupants doing their own home renovation work are exempt from this rule. 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, underlayment, insulation on pipes, ductwork and boilers, fireproofing, ceiling texture, roof paper commonly found under wood shingles, silver roof paint, and soundproofing material.

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, black mastic, cement water pipe, and 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

Nonfriable materials must remain in predominantly whole pieces and must be kept adequately wet throughout the removal and disposal process. If nonfriable materials are crushed or crumbled, they become friable and can only be handled and disposed of by DEQ-licensed asbestos contractors.

Project notification requirements

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



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.

Asbestos abatement contractors conducting friable asbestos abatement are required to submit a friable ASN 1 project notification 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 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 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.

Special considerations

Some materials and projects are exempt from certain rules.

- **Small projects:** Maintenance and comparable activities limited to less than three square feet or three linear feet, provided the removal is part of a needed repair operation, may be exempt from certain rules.
- **Roofing and flooring** mastics that are fully encapsulated with a petroleum based binder and are not hard, dry or brittle are exempt from certain rules. The exemption ends if the materials are burned, crumbled, pulverized or reduced to dust.
- **Cement pipe:** It's prohibited to abandon asbestos-containing cement pipe in the ground once it has been exposed. There are special cases that allow cement pipe to be left in the ground, such as when the AC cement pipe is under an existing roadway or under a building.
- **Siding:** Installation of new siding over transite is not allowed because the installation process renders the transite friable. Sanding, grinding, abrading, or the use of power tools on transite is prohibited.

Additional information

Visit <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/Hazards-and-Cleanup/Pages/Asbestos-for-Businesses.aspx>

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

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

If asbestos-containing material is disturbed or mishandled, it may expose the public to asbestos fibers. Violations of asbestos rules and statutes may subject the contractor or business owner to civil penalties.

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.

Fact Sheet

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 fibers are released into the air and may cause lung cancer and other illnesses. There's no known safe level of exposure.

Asbestos requirements

In fall 2018, Oregon adopted additional requirements for handling asbestos-containing material.

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 houses and other residential buildings constructed prior to 2004 must now have an asbestos survey conducted by an accredited inspector prior to demolition and renovation activities, with one exception. Owner-occupants doing their own home renovation work are exempt from this rule. This exemption does not apply when the residence is going to be demolished.

Previous rules exempted residential renovation projects from the asbestos survey requirement that applied to commercial projects and residential demolition projects. However, residential property owners and contractors were still required to follow asbestos abatement requirements for licensing, certification, notification, handling, packaging and disposing of asbestos.

Requiring an asbestos survey for residential renovation projects ensures property owners and contractors know whether or not materials planned for 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 materials

Nonfriable asbestos waste must now be packaged the same as friable waste. Friable materials are those that can be easily crumbled 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

Laboratories analyzing bulk asbestos samples must participate in a nationally recognized accreditation or testing program by January 1, 2021.

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.

New requirement 4:

Asbestos survey reports

Asbestos survey reports submitted to DEQ must now meet standard requirements. This requirement ensures survey reports include all required information. Learn more about asbestos survey requirements at:

<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/Hazards-and-Cleanup/Pages/Asbestos-Information.aspx>



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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 2004.
- All commercial renovation and demolition projects regardless of construction date.

Asbestos abatement project notification:

Contractors conducting asbestos abatement must submit notifications to DEQ prior to beginning work. Require notifications include:

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

Owner-occupants performing renovation projects on their homes are exempt from the notification requirement. Find information about required notification forms at:

<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/Hazards-and-Cleanup/Pages/Asbestos-Forms.aspx>

Friable asbestos abatement (materials that easily crumble):

Only DEQ-licensed asbestos abatement contractors and owner-occupants of residential homes may perform friable abatement projects.

An owner-occupant is a person who owns the residence and resides as their primary residence. The owner-occupant is required to properly package the asbestos waste before transferring the material outside and must dispose of the asbestos at a landfill permitted by DEQ to accept asbestos waste.

Work practice requirements for 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.
- Wet-method must be applied during asbestos removal and packaging.

Nonfriable asbestos abatement (materials that don't easily crumble):

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

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.

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More information

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