

BEFORE ANY DEMOLITION OR RENOVATION – INSPECT, NOTIFY, PERMIT



I'm remodeling my home. What do I need to do?

State of Montana asbestos regulations do not apply to private residences or to a four-plex or smaller multifamily unit unless they are part of a larger complex (see rules). Nonetheless, it is recommended you have materials tested for asbestos prior to remodeling or demolition. OSHA asbestos regulations may apply to work done on residences. These rules require an employer to characterize all materials prior to impact, and communicate any potential hazard to employees. This requires inspection. Landfills may also require proof of inspection for asbestos prior to admitting construction debris through the gate. Contact your local landfill for their requirements. DEQ recommends that homeowners hire qualified asbestos professionals and not do their own asbestos abatement.

My building is new and I do not believe it contains asbestos. Do I still need to have it inspected?

Yes. Even though most ACMs have been banned from production, some ACMs are still being produced, imported and installed in new construction. All buildings must be inspected regardless of age.

What will happen if I fail to comply with these requirements?

Failure to comply with these requirements may result in enforcement actions including fines and penalties. In some cases, individuals and companies can be prosecuted criminally. Both the building owner and the contractor share the responsibility of making sure these requirements are met.



Where can I find additional information, including lists of accredited asbestos inspectors, contractors, and necessary forms?

All information can be found on DEQ's website: www.asbestos.mt.gov.

For asbestos companies go to <http://deq.mt.gov/asbestos/acpcontractorinfo.mcp.x>.

For more information contact:

Asbestos Control Program
1-406-444-5300
www.asbestos.mt.gov

DEQ Enforcement Division
Asbestos Complaint Line
1-406-444-0379

This guidance document is current as of November 2013. However, information contained in this document is subject to change pending rule revisions.

500 copies of this public document were published at an estimated cost of \$1.01 per copy for a total of \$505.67, which includes \$505.67 for printing and \$0.00 for distribution.

Printed on  recycled paper.

Think Asbestos



Before you renovate or demolish . . .

INSPECT for ASBESTOS using an accredited inspector;
NOTIFY the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ);
PERMIT may be needed from DEQ.

It's the Law!

November 2013



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Did you know...

All buildings, (except four-plex or smaller residential structures) regardless of age or construction type, **must have** a pre-renovation or pre-demolition **asbestos inspection** prior to the initiation of any work? This is required under the Montana Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) asbestos regulations, EPA, and State and Federal labor (MDLI, OSHA) regulations.

Whom do I have to notify when I renovate a building that contains asbestos?

When more than three square feet or three linear feet of regulated asbestos containing material (ACM) will be disturbed, a project permit application must be submitted to DEQ ten working days in advance of the date when activities will begin that will disturb asbestos-containing material.

What is asbestos?

Asbestos is a group of naturally occurring minerals made up of long, thin fibers. Asbestos fibers have been used in thousands of materials and products because of their unique properties such as high tensile strength, flexibility, acoustical properties and resistance to thermal, chemical and electrical conditions. If inhaled, asbestos fibers can cause diseases such as lung cancer, mesothelioma, and asbestosis.



What products or materials contain asbestos?

Asbestos has been used in over 3,500 different building materials. It has been used in thermal systems, wall and ceiling texture, plaster, wallboard, concrete, adhesives, ceiling tiles, roofing, pipe exterior siding, vermiculite insulation and other products. Surprisingly, asbestos is still being added to many building materials.

As a building owner or contractor, can I inspect for asbestos myself?

Asbestos inspections must be performed by a trained asbestos inspector licensed or accredited by (DEQ). The sampling and packaging of materials for analysis must also be done by an accredited and certified asbestos inspector. Asbestos can only be identified using microscopic analysis.

What if the inspector finds asbestos in a building that will be renovated or demolished?

The action depends upon the category, condition, and amount of asbestos found and whether the ACM is friable or non-friable. ACM is material containing greater than one percent asbestos. Friable ACM is material containing one percent or greater asbestos, that when dry, can be crumbled, pulverized or reduced to powder by hand pressure.

Three categories of ACM exist:

- 1) Regulated Asbestos Containing Material (RACM)
This category includes, but is not limited to, all friable ACM and non-friable ACM that has become friable or will become friable during a renovation or a demolition activity. All RACM must be handled by accredited individuals working under a permit issued by DEQ. All RACM must be removed prior to demolition or renovation if the renovation or demolition may impact the material. Transport and disposal of RACM requires a permit from DEQ.
- 2) Category I – Non-friable Asbestos Containing Material
This category includes, but is not limited to, gaskets, resilient floor coverings such as linoleum and floor tile, and asphalt roofing products that contain more than one percent asbestos. These materials may have to be removed prior to renovation or demolition depending on type and condition. These variables should be addressed in the asbestos inspection/survey.
- 3) Category II – Non-friable Asbestos-Containing Material
This category includes any material containing more than one percent asbestos that is not included under Category I non-friable ACM. Examples are cement asbestos



siding, cement asbestos piping, asbestos-containing hard putties, and concrete. Most Category II non-friables must be removed before renovation or demolition begins because these materials are likely to become friable and thus, regulated by DEQ.

Can I remove asbestos myself?

An individual or contractor removing three or more square or linear feet of regulated asbestos containing RACM material must be accredited by DEQ. Workers removing Category I and II non-friable material must, however, meet OSHA's asbestos training and work practice requirements. Contact OSHA at (800) 321-6742 or (406) 247-7494 or www.osha.gov for more information.