



## EPA guidelines for Asbestos removal

**Before the removal of asbestos materials can be conducted, tests should be carried out to determine if the asbestos is likely to become friable i.e. likely to be reduced to dust.**

1. The number of persons involved in the removal of asbestos should be minimal.
2. A warning sign should be erected near the working area.
3. During removal, the asbestos should be soaked thoroughly in order to minimize the probability of fibres breaking and entering the atmosphere.
4. Do not use compressed air to remove asbestos-containing materials.
5. Objects within the working area should be covered with impermeable material or plastic.
6. Removed materials should be wrapped in plastic sheeting and labeled.
7. Disposal of asbestos-containing materials should be done at a secured landfill site.
8. Do not burn asbestos-containing materials.

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## Safety first!

**1. The goal is to prevent it from breaking up. If asbestos material is in good condition do not disturb it. If the material is damaged, activity in the affected area should be kept at a minimum. Do not touch the material!!!**

**2. Avoid sanding, scraping or drilling into walls, ceilings or floors where asbestos might be.**

**3. When working with asbestos always wear protective clothing. This includes a filtered respirator, goggles, overalls, gloves and boots.**

**4. If you are working with asbestos, you should not smoke. Remember smokers who work with asbestos are much more likely to get serious lung diseases than non-smokers.**



# ASBESTOS

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW?

## SOME HEALTH RISKS

### 1) Asbestosis

As asbestos fibres are inhaled they are trapped in the lung tissue. The body tries to get rid of the fibres by producing an acid. However, the fibres are very strong and resistant to the acid.

**The acid scars the tissue of the lungs and eventually the scarring may become so severe that the lungs cannot function. Asbestosis takes about 25-40 years to develop.**

### 2) Mesothelioma

Mesothelioma is a cancer of the outer lining of the lung, chest cavity or abdomen. This condition is fatal and has a latency period of 15-30 years.

### 3) Lung Cancer

Lung cancer can result from exposure to asbestos. The effects of lung cancer are greatly increased by cigarette smoking. The latency period for this type of cancer is often 15-30 years.



**Remember,  
Asbestos should  
only be handled or  
removed by a  
qualified person.**

## What is Asbestos?

**Asbestos is the name given to a group of six different minerals. These minerals are made of bundles of fibres that are durable, heat resistant, noise absorbing and easily transported by air.**

There are three main types of asbestos minerals: Chrysotile (white asbestos), Amosite (brown asbestos) and Crocidolite (blue asbestos).

## What is Asbestos?

**Asbestos is commonly used for fire proofing, as a heat and sound insulator and in roofing and flooring materials. Here is a list of some materials that may still contain asbestos:**

1. Cement pipes
2. Vinyl floor tiles
3. Decorative plaster
4. Fire blankets
5. Fire doors
6. Chalkboards
7. Boiler insulation
8. Roof shingles
9. Electric Insulation
10. Laboratory gloves and table tops

## Why is Asbestos dangerous?

**The presence of asbestos in homes, buildings or materials does not necessarily pose a threat. However, if asbestos-containing materials are disturbed or if they are improperly removed, the microscopic fibers of the asbestos may become airborne.**

