

## Asbestos Information You Need Before Demolishing a Building

The Department of Environmental Quality, known as DEQ, and Lane Regional Air Protection Agency, known as LRAPA, have specific rules regarding the handling, removal and disposal of asbestos-containing materials, commonly referred to as ACM. DEQ and LRAPA regulate ACM abatement to prevent asbestos fiber release and exposure.

Asbestos fibers are a respiratory hazard proven to cause lung cancer, mesothelioma, and asbestosis. Asbestos is a danger to public health and a hazardous air pollutant for which there is no known safe level of exposure.

Before any public or private facility is demolished, all ACM must be properly abated. Abatement includes handle, remove, dispose, repair, salvage, enclosure or encapsulation of any ACM.

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. A copy of the asbestos survey is required to be onsite during all demolition activities. Asbestos hazard consultants and many of the asbestos abatement contractors can provide this service. A factsheet is available specific to the asbestos survey requirement.

In general, there are two types of ACMs:

- **Friable ACM** will easily release asbestos fibers when crushed. Only DEQ licensed asbestos abatement contractors and certified asbestos workers can handle, 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 provider information is available online: <http://www.deq.state.or.us/aq/asbestos>

Examples of **friable ACM** include, but are not limited to: sheet vinyl flooring, insulation on pipes, ductwork and boilers, fireproofing, ceiling texture and panel products, and soundproofing.

- **Nonfriable ACM** has a binder that holds the asbestos fibers within a solid matrix so asbestos fibers will not easily release 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 and predominantly whole pieces during the removal and disposal process.**

Examples of **nonfriable ACM** include, but are not limited to: vinyl floor tile, asbestos-containing water pipe, and cement siding, roofing or paneling, also known as transite.

If you remove nonfriable ACM, follow the instructions in the DEQ nonfriable guidance documents. In addition, an ASN 6 nonfriable project notification and fee are required to be submitted to the DEQ Business Office five days prior to the start date of the project.

Nonfriable asbestos-containing waste material, referred to as nonfriable ACWM, must be kept adequately wet during abatement. DEQ recommends packaging the nonfriable ACWM in leak-tight containers. The ACWM must be disposed of at a landfill permitted to accept asbestos waste and should be accompanied by an ASN 4 waste shipment report at the time of disposal.

Contact the landfill prior to delivering the nonfriable ACWM. Landfills can be more stringent than DEQ and may only accept ACWM by appointment.

If you disturb or mishandle ACM and cause 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 nonfriable guidance documents, factsheets, ASN forms, lists and other information is available online: <http://www.deq.state.or.us/aq/asbestos>

### Alternative Formats

*Alternative formats of this document can be made available. Contact DEQ's Office of Communications & Outreach for more information at 503-229-5696.*



State of Oregon  
Department of  
Environmental  
Quality

Asbestos Program  
[www.oregon.gov](http://www.oregon.gov)

### 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.