

Air Quality: ASBESTOS

What should I do if test results indicate asbestos is present?

If the material identified as RACM is in good condition, it is recommended that you leave it alone. If the RACM will be disturbed during the process of renovation or demolition, a licensed asbestos abatement contractor must be hired to properly remove the material in a safe and legal manner.

Who may remove asbestos containing material from commercial buildings?

The WV Contractors' State License Board and WV Bureau for Public Health, Environmental Health Services require the use of a licensed asbestos removal contractor who knows the legal requirements, has the trained staff and equipment to do the job properly. You may go to the WV Bureau of Public Health web site and search or check on a licensed contractor (www.wvdhhr.org/rtia/).

For further information on asbestos call:

WV Bureau for Public Health
Environmental Health Services

Mr. Lee Miller,
Chief, Asbestos Compliance Program
(304) 558-6718

Mr. Richard Peggs,
Chief, Certification & Licensing Program
(304) 558-6720

WV Department of Environmental Protection
Office of Air Quality

Mr. Leonard Womble,
Asbestos Program Manager
(304) 926-3647

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
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Asbestos Coordinator
(215) 814-5797



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Asbestos



What Commercial Building Owners Should Know.....

As- bes- tos

What is Regulated Asbestos Containing Material (RACM)?

RACM contains friable asbestos in quantities greater than 1% by visual area estimation. Friable means the material can be crumbled, pulverized, or reduced to powder by hand pressure when dry. Some common examples of RACM are spray acoustic ceilings (plaster), duct wrap, paper backing of linoleum, wall board, and thermal insulation on pipes and boilers. Use of asbestos in the manufacturing of these products was banned in 1978, however some products remained on the shelf and were used in the construction of buildings and homes for years thereafter.

Non-friable asbestos containing material is typically bound up with cement, vinyl, asphalt or some other type of hardening binder. Some examples of non-friable asbestos building products are Transite® (cement) siding, vinyl asbestos floor tiles and asphalt roofing shingles. This material may become friable if it is pulverized during renovation (remodel, repair) or demolition activity. Non-friable asbestos materials are still manufactured.



When is ASBESTOS considered dangerous?

If RACM is disturbed, it may release airborne fibers that can be inhaled and pose a serious health threat. If the RACM is in good general condition and is left undisturbed, it should not pose a health threat and is not required to be removed.

How do I know if my commercial building contains asbestos?

Many building materials can contain RACM. If you are going to renovate or demolish a building, you must hire a certified & licensed asbestos inspector to perform the survey.

All commercial demolitions and renovations require an asbestos survey prior to the start of the project.

Is there a waiting period prior to having the Asbestos removed?

YES. If you plan to have the RACM removed you must file a Notification with state agencies and the US EPA. After filing the Notification, you may proceed with the removal on the 11th working day after the Post Mark date. However, if there is an emergency, you may proceed with whatever steps are necessary without waiting the 10 working days, but you must notify the agencies immediately of the project and explain what the emergency was and what caused the it.



When selling a building, what must I do about any asbestos contained in the building?

If an asbestos survey has been performed and it indicated that asbestos is present, or you otherwise have knowledge that asbestos exists in the structure, this fact must be disclosed to the buyer in the real estate transfer disclosure statement.

