



ASBESTOS

RESIDENTS & GENERAL PUBLIC

WHAT IS ASBESTOS?

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral, made up of fine and durable fibers which are resistant to water, heat and fire, corrosion, and many chemicals. Because of its fiber strength and heat resistance, asbestos has been used in a variety of building construction materials.

IS THE USE OF ASBESTOS BANNED?

The manufacture, importation, processing, and distribution in commerce of a few asbestos-containing products and building materials are banned under existing regulations.

HOW CAN PEOPLE BE EXPOSED TO ASBESTOS?

If asbestos-containing material is disturbed during use, demolition work, building or home maintenance, repair, or remodeling, asbestos fibers may be released into the air. Because they are too small to be seen with the naked eye, these fibers can easily be inhaled or ingested and get trapped in the body.

DANGER

ASBESTOS

CANCER AND LUNG DISEASE HAZARD

AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY

RESPIRATORS AND PROTECTIVE CLOTHING ARE REQUIRED IN THIS AREA

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For more information contact the Asbestos Abatement Program at: asbestos.permit@dc.gov or visit doee.dc.gov/service/asbestosabatement



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ASBESTOS-CONTAINING MATERIALS (ACMs) FOUND IN BUILDINGS

- 1 Attic and wall insulation products such as vermiculite and spray-on materials
- 2 Roofing and siding shingles and associated felt and sealant
- 3 Interior and Exterior Window Caulk and Glaze
- 4 Textured coatings and patching compounds used for walls and ceilings such as plaster or drywall
- 5 Hot water and steam pipes coated with asbestos material or covered with an asbestos blanket or tape/mastic/sealant
- 6 Vinyl floor tiles and the backing on vinyl sheet flooring and associated adhesives/mastics
- 7 Oil and coal furnaces and door gaskets with asbestos insulation
- 8 Waterproofing materials

Other ACMs include:

- Walls and floors around wood-burning stoves protected with asbestos paper, millboard, or cement sheets;
- Heat-resistant fabrics;
- Automobile clutches and brakes.

HEALTH EFFECTS FROM EXPOSURE TO ASBESTOS

In general, the more one is exposed to asbestos, the greater the chance of developing any of three major harmful health issues:

- **Lung cancer:** Lung cancer is when growth of abnormal cells in the lungs is uncontrolled. The risk of developing lung cancer is higher for people who smoke and are exposed to asbestos.
- **Mesothelioma:** Mesothelioma is a rare form of cancer found in the thin lining of the lung, chest, abdomen, and heart.
- **Asbestosis:** Asbestosis is a serious progressive, long-term, non-cancer disease of the lungs.

ASBESTOS ABATEMENT IN THE DISTRICT

The District is responsible for:

- Issuing asbestos abatement permits to licensed contractors and collecting permit fees for regulated asbestos-containing materials (RACMs);
- Inspecting and monitoring asbestos abatement projects and reviewing asbestos abatement reports;
- Investigating asbestos-related complaints; and
- Prosecuting violators who fail to comply with asbestos laws and regulations.

The District's Asbestos Abatement Program ensures that licensed asbestos abatement contractors protect their own health and safety, and that of building occupants and the general public.