

College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University

Asbestos - Pre-Demolition Environmental Checklist and Guide

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral that separates into strong, very fine fibers. These fibers float in the air and are easily breathed into the lungs, causing serious health problems. Asbestos is not combustible, has high tensile strength, has good thermal and electrical insulating properties, is moderately resistant to chemicals, and has good frictional properties. It is durable, flexible, strong and resistant to wear. Thus, asbestos has been used for thousands of commercial and public applications including:

Asbestos can be found in many types of building materials, products and insulation. You can't tell whether a material contains asbestos simply by looking at it, unless it is labeled. Asbestos presence or absence must be confirmed by professional sampling and laboratory analysis.

Asbestos type materials can be found on, or in (not all inclusive list):

Boiler rooms:

- Boilers, Furnaces, Fireplaces, and their components:
- Cement sheets near heating equipment:
- Boiler insulation:
- HVAC Duct insulation:
- Ductwork flexible fabric connections:
- Fireproofing materials:
- Firedoors:

Flooring:

- Vinyl floor tile:
- Vinyl sheet flooring:
- Asphalt tile:
- Linoleum paper backing:
- Mastic (floor tile, carpet, etc.)

Electrical:

- Electrical panels:
- Electrical wiring insulation:
- Heating and electrical ducts/conduit:

Pipe and other insulation:

- Aircell (corrugated cardboard):
- Millboard:
- Preform:
- Joint compound:
- Spray applied insulation:
- Blown-in insulation:

Surfacing materials:

Acoustical plaster:

Decorative plaster:

Textured paints coatings:

Spray applied materials (acoustical, decorative, or insulative):

Roofing:

Roofing shingles:

Roofing felt:

Base Flashing:

Cement materials (Transite):

Cement pipes (flues & vent pipes)

Cement Wallboard:

Cement siding:

Pegboard:

Ceiling materials:

Ceiling tiles:

Ceiling tile adhesives (pucks):

Lay in ceiling panels:

Acoustical tiles:

Miscellaneous:

Taping, joint, and spackling compound:

Caulking/putties:

Fire curtains and blankets:

Laboratory hoods, table tops, gloves, etc.:

Gaskets:

This is only a guidance list and it is not intended as a substitute for reading the rules and statutes and making independent onsite determination applicable to the demolition project.

Examples in this guidance document do not represent an exhaustive listing of types of materials that may be required to be removed from a building prior to demolition.