

Asbestos Information

What homeowners need to know about asbestos before starting renovation or demolition

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality regulates the handling, removal and disposal of asbestos-containing material to protect public health and the environment.

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral that has been used extensively in a variety of construction materials in the U.S. When asbestos-containing material is disturbed, tiny hazardous asbestos fibers are released into the air and may cause lung cancer and other illnesses. There's no known safe level of exposure to asbestos.

Asbestos in your home may be a hazard unless the asbestos-containing material is stable, undamaged and well-sealed. Asbestos abatement includes handling, removing, disposing, repairing, salvaging, enclosing or encapsulating any asbestos-containing materials.

There are two options for asbestos abatement in an owner-occupied single unit private residence. The owner-occupant of a home may: 1) hire a DEQ-licensed asbestos abatement contractor, or 2) remove the asbestos themselves. Homeowners choosing to remove the asbestos themselves must follow Oregon's requirements for asbestos waste packaging and disposal.



How to prepare for renovation or demolition

Asbestos survey

All residential buildings constructed before Jan. 1, 2004 must have an asbestos survey conducted by an accredited inspector prior to any demolition or renovation activities, with one main exception. Owner-occupants doing their own renovation work inside of their home are exempt from this rule. An owner-occupant is a person who owns and lives in a single unit, private residence.

However, DEQ recommends owner-occupants have an asbestos survey performed or take samples of [suspect materials](#) and send the samples to a lab for analysis prior to renovation projects. Disposal facilities generally require a copy of the survey report/lab results for the disposal of renovation waste.

The owner-occupant exemption does not apply when the residence is going to be demolished. If an asbestos survey is required, a copy of the asbestos survey report must be on-site during all renovation or demolition activities, and must be provided to DEQ upon request.

Demolition and renovation

Demolition is defined as wrecking or removing a load-supporting structural feature of a facility, and related handling operations, or the intentional burning of a facility.

Renovation is defined as altering one or more facility components that does not involve removing a load-supporting structural features. Renovation includes the replacing, stripping or repairing of facility components, such as mechanical ventilation systems, pipes, ceilings, walls, flooring and insulating materials.

Types of asbestos materials

There are two general types of asbestos-containing materials, friable and nonfriable, which have different abatement requirements.



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

Asbestos Program

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Friable asbestos-containing materials are easily crushed, crumbled or pulverized. Examples of friable materials include sheet vinyl flooring, insulation on pipes, ductwork and boilers, fireproofing, ceiling and wall texture, ceiling panels and soundproofing materials.

Eligible to perform friable abatement:

- DEQ licensed asbestos abatement contractors.
- Owner-occupants of a single unit private residence (for projects in the interior of the house only)

Nonfriable asbestos-containing materials have a binder that holds the asbestos fibers within a solid matrix so asbestos fibers will not easily release unless mishandled or damaged. Examples of nonfriable materials include vinyl floor tile, black mastic, cement water pipe, and cement siding, roofing or paneling.

Eligible to perform nonfriable abatement:

- DEQ licensed asbestos abatement contractors
- Home, business, and property owners
- Construction Contractors Board licensed contractors

Hiring a contractor

If a homeowner decides to hire a contractor, it is important to ensure the contractor has the required credentials.

Only a DEQ-licensed asbestos abatement contractor may perform projects with friable materials. A list of DEQ licensed asbestos abatement contractors is available at: <https://go.usa.gov/xdFHB>

Project notification requirements

Those conducting nonfriable asbestos abatement are required to submit a nonfriable (ASN-6) notification form and fee to DEQ five days prior to beginning work.

Asbestos abatement contractors conducting friable asbestos abatement are required to submit a friable (ASN-1) notification form and fee to DEQ 10 days prior to beginning work. DEQ can waive the waiting period on a case-by-case basis in emergency situations.

Owner-occupants of a single unit private residence conducting their own abatement are exempt from the notification requirements.

Find more information about required notifications at <https://go.usa.gov/xdFAv>

Waste handling and disposal

Oregon's requirements for waste handling and disposal apply to all asbestos abatement projects, even if the homeowner chooses to remove the asbestos themselves. Open accumulation and storage of friable asbestos-containing material and asbestos-containing waste material is prohibited. Asbestos-containing waste material, both friable and nonfriable, must be packaged in a minimum of two 6-mil thick plastic bags or similar leak-tight packaging with an asbestos hazard warning label, and must be disposed of at a disposal facility permitted by DEQ to accept asbestos waste.

Prior to transport, asbestos waste containers must have a label attached with the name of the generator (person doing the removal) and the address from where the waste was removed. A completed Asbestos Waste Shipment Report Form (ASN-4) must be provided to the permitted disposal facility at the time of disposal.

Contact the permitted disposal facility prior to delivering asbestos waste. Disposal facilities may have additional requirements and may only accept asbestos waste by appointment.

Additional information

Visit <https://go.usa.gov/xdFHR>

Find all DEQ's asbestos requirements in [Oregon Administrative Rules 340, Division 248](#). People handling asbestos must also follow other state and local government requirements, include requirements of [Oregon OSHA](#) and [Construction Contractors Board](#).

If you have questions or need technical assistance, contact DEQ asbestos program staff listed below.

Alternative formats

DEQ can provide documents in an alternate format or in a language other than English upon request. Call DEQ at 800-452-4011 or email deqinfo@deq.state.or.us.

Asbestos Program Contacts

Office	Address	Phone	Counties
Portland	700 NE Multnomah St. Suite 600 Portland, OR 97232	503-229-5982 or 800-452-4011	Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Multnomah, Tillamook, Washington
Salem	4026 Fairview Industrial Dr. Salem, OR 97801	503-378-5086 or 800-349-7677	Benton, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Polk, Yamhill
Medford	221 Steward Ave. Ste. 201 Medford, OR 97501	541-776-6107 or 877-823-3216	Jackson, Josephine, Eastern Douglas County
Coos Bay	381 N Second St. Coos Bay, OR 97420	541-269-2721, ext. 222	Coos, Curry, Western Douglas County
Bend	475 NE Bellevue Dr. Suite 110 Bend, OR 97701	541-633-2019 or 866-863-6668	Crook, Deschutes, Harney, Hood River, Jefferson, Klamath, Lake, Sherman, Wasco
Pendleton	800 SE Emigrant Ave. Suite 330 Pendleton, OR 97801	541-278-4626 or 800-304-3513	Baker, Gilliam, Grant, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Wheeler
Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA)	1010 Main St. Springfield, OR 97477	541-736-1056	Lane