

## Protect Your Family From Asbestos

Asbestos is the name given to a group of naturally occurring minerals used in certain products to resist heat and corrosion. Exposure to airborne asbestos fibers can cause serious health effects including asbestosis, mesothelioma, and lung cancer.

**There is no safe level of exposure to asbestos!**

The inhalation of asbestos fibers by workers and the public can cause serious diseases of the lungs and other organs that may not appear until years after the exposure has occurred. Asbestos cannot be detected by sight – materials must be tested by a lab.

### Where is asbestos found?

Structures built before 1980 are more likely to contain asbestos, but newer structures may still include asbestos and must be surveyed when doing work. Some common products which contain asbestos include:

- Ceiling tiles
- Drywall
- Furnaces/air ducts
- Gaskets
- Linoleum sheet flooring
- Popcorn/acoustic ceilings
- Roofing materials
- Pipes & pipe wrap
- Mastics/sealants
- Flooring tiles
- Insulation & fireproofing
- Transite shingles, pipes & siding

## Asbestos Regulations for Single-Family Homes

While the District does not mandate asbestos testing or removal during renovation and demolition projects on single-family homes, we do strongly encourage that you take precautions including testing and safe removal of the material.

### Getting your home tested

A list of certified local asbestos testing companies is maintained at [www.ysaqmd.org/rules-compliance/asbestos/](http://www.ysaqmd.org/rules-compliance/asbestos/). These contractors can determine if there is asbestos material in the walls, ceiling or insulation of your home before you or a contractor begins a project.

### Multiple residences on your property?

If you have multiple residences under separate rooflines on your property, you are required to follow District regulations and potentially complete an asbestos survey before starting renovation or demolition work the units. If this may apply to you, please contact the District or your local building official.



# ASBESTOS

## For Your Home Renovation Project

What you need to know about asbestos in your home before you renovate.



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[www.ysaqmd.org](http://www.ysaqmd.org)



## Asbestos Q & A

**How can I tell if there's asbestos in my house?** Only lab testing can determine whether asbestos is present. Asbestos is more likely to be present in homes built before 1980.

**Can I just wear a dust mask when I remove material?** A standard dust mask may not prevent you from breathing in all the asbestos fibers. The District recommends that homeowners contact a trained, licensed asbestos contractor for removal or repairs.

**Does my "popcorn ceiling" likely contain asbestos?** Yes.

**Do I need a District permit to remove asbestos?** If your project involves only one single-family home, probably not. The District does require permits for asbestos removal on commercial facilities, such as apartments.

**What are the health risks of asbestos?** Breathing asbestos fibers has been scientifically linked to numerous major health issues, including mesothelioma asbestosis and lung cancer. The higher your exposure to asbestos, the higher the risk of health impacts.

**How can I ensure my contractor is safely handling asbestos material?** Before you hire a contractor for a renovation or demolition, ensure they are a licensed asbestos contractor. A link to the asbestos contractor database is available at [www.ysaqmd.org/rules-compliance/asbestos/homes/](http://www.ysaqmd.org/rules-compliance/asbestos/homes/)

## The Basics

Asbestos can be found in many products used in building construction, especially units built before 1980. Newer buildings can still contain asbestos.

Airborne asbestos fibers can cause serious health effects.

All commercial building renovation and demolition is subject to regulation by the Yolo-Solano AQMD.

A certified asbestos survey is required for all non-exempt projects.

Penalties can reach up to \$75,000 per daily violation if District rules are not followed.

Asbestos is **not** banned and may be found in newer products.

## Asbestos Q & A (cont'd)

**Can I throw asbestos material in the garbage?** No! Asbestos-containing material is considered hazardous waste and steep fines (up to \$25,000 per violation) may apply for mishandling the material. Please contact your waste service provider before disposing of the asbestos material. They will have info on proper procedure for your jurisdiction.

## Asbestos Do's and Don't's

**Do use** a licensed asbestos contractor to test material and remove asbestos.

**Do avoid** unnecessary work on potential asbestos-containing materials.

**Do leave** undamaged asbestos-containing materials alone.

**Do keep** activities to a minimum in any areas with damaged material that may contain asbestos

**Do protect** children from exposed asbestos material before, during and after your project.

**Do use** the proper procedures in preparing and removing asbestos material.

**Do contact** your waste service provider for instructions on disposing of asbestos material.

**Don't sand or scrape** asbestos-containing material like a "popcorn ceiling."

**Don't dust, sweep or vacuum** debris that may contain asbestos.

**Don't track** material through the house that may contain asbestos.

**Don't throw** asbestos materials in the trash.

You could be heavily fined & expose neighbors to asbestos-related health issues.

### Questions?

[Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District:](#)  
(530) 757-3650

[Yolo County Environmental Health](#)  
(530) 666-8646

[Solano County Environmental Health](#)  
(707) 784-6765