



STREETER
ASSOCIATES

SHARP MINDS. SUPERIOR CONSTRUCTION.



ASBESTOS POLICY and AWARENESS TRAINING PROGRAM

TAB 10



ASBESTOS POLICY AND EMPLOYEE TRAINING

It is the policy of Streeter Associates, Inc. **not** to handle any asbestos containing materials. If, in the normal course of work, an employee encounters suspect material (PACM or ACM) he is to notify his supervisor immediately.

OSHA states that all building materials used prior to 1980 are presumed to contain asbestos. All demolition work and repair & maintenance work needs to be evaluated prior to starting work. It is important to note that many building materials are still being manufactured with asbestos.

OSHA requires “Asbestos Awareness Training” for employees who do not work with asbestos, but might have incidental exposure.

All Streeter Associates, Inc. employees are instructed NOT to touch, wrap, or in any way disturb materials containing asbestos or materials possibly containing asbestos.

Building owners are required to survey their buildings for asbestos and give this report to the contractor prior to the start of work. Sometimes, the ACMs will be hidden and not discovered until work is being performed (e.g. insulated piping behind a wall).

If you suspect there is Asbestos Containing Materials (ACM) OR Possible Asbestos Containing Materials (PACM) you are to follow these procedures:

- **Stop work immediately**
- **Tell fellow workers not to work in that area until the supervisor indicates that it is OK to continue working**
- **Report your suspicions to your supervisor**
- **Barricade the area and post warning signs or tape**
- **If the building survey does not address the area, testing will be done**
- **If no asbestos is present, your supervisor will notify you that no asbestos is present and that you may continue working**
- **If asbestos is present, abatement will be done under the direction of the building owner. This can take place directly between the building owner and abatement contractor or the building owner may direct the General Contractor or Construction Manager to employ an abatement contractor**

While Streeter Associates, Inc. employees will never work with asbestos, it is still important to be aware of its possible presence, hazards, and health effects.



Asbestos Awareness

What is asbestos?

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral that takes the form of hollow, microscopic fibers which are nearly indestructible. It can be densely packed into a tough, flexible and very useful material, which has been used for hundreds of years as an insulation, fireproofing, and building material.

There are three major types of asbestos used in building and industry:

- **Crysotile**, or white asbestos – use as insulation, fireproofing and soundproofing.
- **Amosite**, or brown asbestos – used in high friction applications like brake shoes & clutches.
- **Crocidolite**, or blue asbestos – not as common as the other two, but the most toxic form.

About 95% of all asbestos used in the U.S. has been chrysotile, the least toxic form of asbestos.

Where is asbestos found?

Asbestos is often a component in the following materials:

- Fireproofing
- Thermal insulation
- Boilers
- Building ventilation systems
- Ceiling tiles
- Vinyl floor tiles
- Dry wall, dry wall tape and plaster
- Texturized paints
- Roofing shingles, felt, tar, flashing
- Decorative building materials
- Sheathing on electronics and power cables
- Automotive brake pads and clutches



Can asbestos be identified visually?

There is no way to visually identify asbestos. **Many materials that contain asbestos look just the same as materials that don't.** The only way to confirm that a material is asbestos is to take samples and analyze the material in a laboratory. Therefore, it is best to treat anything that looks like it may contain asbestos as if it does until it is analyzed and proven to not contain any asbestos.

When is asbestos a potential health hazard?

Asbestos that is “**friable**” may be crumbled, pulverized or reduced to powder in your hand when dry. Friable asbestos has the potential to release asbestos fibers that can become airborne, and potentially create a health hazard.

Asbestos that is bonded, coated, painted, covered, or otherwise protected so that it doesn't release airborne fibers *does not* present a health hazard.

What are some health effects that could result from exposure to airborne asbestos fibers?

- **Asbestosis** – a progressive, non-cancerous and irreversible scarring of the lungs that can produce shortness of breath. Typical latency period is over 20 years.
- **Pleural disease** – plaque deposits or a thickening of the thin tissue that separates the lungs from the other organs in the body.
- **Lung cancer** – cancerous tumors that have a latency period of 20 to 30, usually fatal.
- **Mesothelioma** – a cancer in the lining of the chest cavity or abdomen, very rare but always fatal.

It is important to note that most asbestos related diseases have occurred in workers who historically have had high exposures to asbestos. These exposures occurred in occupations where asbestos was mined, milled, used in primary manufacturing, and in insulation trades, such as shipbuilding. Before asbestos was known to be a serious health hazard, exposure levels to airborne asbestos in these industries may have reached over 100 fibers/cc. This is 1000 times higher than the current Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) **Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) of 0.1 fibers/cc.** Workers whose only exposure to asbestos was in changing auto brake shoes containing asbestos have shown no increase in incidence of any asbestos related disease.

Research has shown that smoking significantly increases the risk of lung cancer in individuals who are exposed to unsafe levels of asbestos.



What can you do to limit your exposure to asbestos?

Most buildings, especially older ones, contain some amount of asbestos. **But remember, asbestos is only a potential hazard if it is damaged and friable, releasing fibers into the air we breathe.**

If you come across something that appears to be friable asbestos, such as damaged insulation on a pipe, **assume that it is asbestos, and notify your supervisor.** Do not damage or disturb the area. A sample of the material will be taken and analyzed. If it is determined to be asbestos, it will either be removed or repaired so that it is protected and no longer releasing fibers.

If your job involves stripping or buffing floors that could be vinyl asbestos tile, this should be done infrequently, using a **wet method.** A soft, non-abrasive pad should be used, and the machine should be run at low speed (below 300 rpm). Do not burnish or dry-buff flooring unless it has sufficient finish so that the pad can't contact the bare floor.



Note: The following list does not include every product/material that may contain asbestos. It is intended as a general guide to show which types of materials may contain asbestos.

Sample List of Suspect Asbestos – Containing Materials

Cement Pipes	Elevator Brake Shoes
Cement Wallboard	HVAC Duct Insulation
Cement Siding	Boiler Insulation
Asphalt Floor Tile	Breaching Insulation
Vinyl Floor Tile	Ductwork Flexible Fabric Connections
Vinyl Sheet Flooring	Cooling Towers
Flooring Backing	Pipe Insulation (corrugated air-cell, block, etc.)
Construction Mastics (floor tile, carpet, ceiling tile, etc.)	Heating and Electrical Ducts
Acoustical Plaster	Electrical Panel Partitions
Decorative Plaster	Electrical Cloth
Textured Paints/Coatings	Electric Wiring Insulation
Ceiling Tiles and Lay-in Panels	Chalkboards
Spray-Applied Insulation	Roofing Shingles
Blown-in Insulation	Roofing Felt
Fireproofing Materials	Base Flashing
Taping Compounds (thermal)	Thermal Paper Products
Packing Materials (for wall/floor penetrations)	Fire Doors
High Temperature Gaskets	Caulking/Putties
Laboratory Hoods/Table Tops	Adhesives
Laboratory Gloves	Wallboard
Fire Blankets	Joint Compound
Fire Curtains	Vinyl Wall Coverings
Elevator Equipment Panels	Spackling Compounds