

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral fiber that has been used commonly in a variety of building construction materials for insulation and as a fire-retardant. Due to the materials fiber strength and heat resistant properties, asbestos has been used for a wide range of manufactured goods, mostly in building materials, friction products, heat-resistant fabrics, packaging, gaskets, and coatings.

When asbestos-containing materials are damaged or disturbed, microscopic fibers become airborne and can cause significant health problems if inhaled into the lungs. The goal of the Cornell University EH&S Asbestos Management Program is to minimize employee exposure to the hazards of asbestos, to provide technical services related to University asbestos abatement, and to ensure abatement waste is disposed of properly.

REGULATIONS

- At a federal level, OSHA and the EPA set standards for worker protection, asbestos in school buildings, and the manufacturing/commerce of asbestos containing materials.
- At a state level, NYS Department of Labor (DOL) regulates the training of abatement professionals and enforcement in NY.
- The CU Asbestos Management Program governs how University employees are protected from asbestos exposure.
- Violation of existing asbestos regulations leads to monetary fines and possible criminal charges.

IDENTIFYING ASBESTOS

- Non-Friable, any material that when dry, can not be crumbled, pulverized, or reduced to powder and is not capable of being released into the air by hand pressure. Includes transite board, roof and floor materials, plaster and gypsum walls/ceilings.
- Friable, any material that when dry, can be crumbled, pulverized, or reduced to powder or capable of being released into the air by hand pressure. Includes pipe, fitting, and duct insulation, applied ceilings, fireproofing, and paper wrap (pipes & ducts).
- Friable asbestos containing material requires a warning label.
- Do not disturb asbestos containing materials. If you observe damaged or unlabeled asbestos containing material (or suspect asbestos containing materials), please contact Customer Service immediately at 255-5322.

ROUTES OF EXPOSURE AND HEALTH EFFECTS

- The primary route of asbestos exposure is through the inhalation of fibers into the lungs which can lead to cancer, scarring, and chronic inflammation, especially when combined with smoking.
- The secondary route is through fluid ingestion; this can lead to cancers of the esophagus, stomach and intestine.

ASBESTOS ABATEMENT

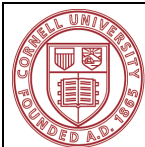
- Only licensed asbestos abatement contractors can remove asbestos containing materials.
- Asbestos abatement is performed using specialized work practices and controls to protect building occupants.
- Asbestos abatement projects are typically managed through the Facilities Services Maintenance Management group and approved contractors. Contact Customer Service (255-5322) to initiate an asbestos abatement project.

TRAINING

- Workers with the potential to be exposed to asbestos, such as building care, mechanics, and skilled trades, must receive annual asbestos awareness training.

Environmental Health & Safety
Occupation Safety Health and Injury Prevention
395 Pine Tree Rd. Suite 210
Ithaca, NY 14850
607.255.8200

*Please return sign-in sheet to
Environmental Health & Safety
for recordkeeping.*



Cornell University

Toolbox Safety Talk
Asbestos Awareness

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ End Time: _____

Location: _____

Presenter Name: _____

PRINT NAME	NET ID	DEPARTMENT	SIGNATURE

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