

Garmong Construction Services					
<i>EMPLOYEE SAFETY POLICY HANDBOOK – Asbestos</i>					
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Asbestos

“Asbestos” is the name of a class of magnesium-silicate minerals that occur in fibrous form. Minerals that are included in this group are chrysotile, crocidolite, amosite, anthophyllite asbestos, tremolite asbestos, and actinolite asbestos. Asbestos is used in the manufacture of heat-resistant clothing, automobile brake and clutch linings, and a variety of building materials including floor tiles, roofing felts, ceiling tiles, asbestos-cement pipe and sheet, and fire-resistant drywall. Asbestos is also present in pipe and boiler insulation materials, and in sprayed-on materials located on beams, in crawlspaces and between walls.

The potential for an asbestos-containing product to release breathable fibers depends on its degree of friability. Friable means that the material can be crumbled with hand pressure and is therefore likely to emit fibers. The fibrous or fluffy sprayed-on materials used for fireproofing, insulation, or sound proofing are considered to be friable, and they readily release airborne fibers if disturbed. Materials such as vinyl-asbestos floor tile or roofing felts are considered non-friable and generally do not emit airborne fibers unless subjected to sanding or sawing operations. Asbestos-cement pipe or sheet can emit airborne fibers if the materials are cut or sawed, or if they are broken.

Since 1970, very few asbestos-containing products have been or are being installed. Consequently, most worker exposures occur during the removal of asbestos and the renovation and maintenance of buildings and structures containing asbestos. Asbestos fibers enter the body by inhalation or ingestion of air-borne particles and become embedded in the tissues of the respiratory or digestive systems. Exposure to asbestos can cause disabling or fatal diseases such as asbestosis (an emphysema-like condition), lung cancer, mesothelioma (a cancerous tumor that spreads rapidly in the cells of membranes covering the lungs and body organs), and gastrointestinal cancer. The symptoms of these diseases generally do not appear for 20 years or more after exposure.

The job site supervisor is on constant alert for asbestos materials. These are most commonly found in the demo phase of a job such as removing plaster walls or ceilings, floor tile, opening into a wall and pipe insulation. Before each task is started, or if materials are uncovered, materials suspected of being asbestos will be tested.

If during the demo phase suspect materials are uncovered work must stop at once. Notify the Project manager and the Safety Director.

1. Seal the area if the material has been damaged or appears to be friable. Do not disturb suspect material.
 - a. Plastic seal door, windows, holes
 - b. Turn off exhaust fans, air intake louvers etc.
 2. Post area with signage
“DO NOT ENTER”
 3. Notify other trades on the job.
 4. Notify owner for proper testing of suspect material.
- Do not remove seals or signage until negative tests are presented.