



ASBESTOS IN UW BUILDINGS

Many buildings at the University were constructed with asbestos-containing materials. The information below can help you avoid exposure to asbestos.

WHICH MATERIALS MAY CONTAIN ASBESTOS?

Some University buildings contain intact asbestos-containing material in public access areas. These materials may include:

- Vinyl floor tiles or linoleum sheet flooring
- Mastic used to attach flooring, ceiling tiles, carpet, cove base or cork board
- Pipe insulation
- Fireproofing
- Joint compounds used in sheetrock walls
- Acoustical/decorative plaster
- Fire doors
- Acoustic ceiling tiles
- Baseboards
- Concrete pipes and siding
- Exterior siding
- Window putty

The asbestos in the materials listed above is usually bonded with vinyl, epoxy, cement, or other materials.

Some laboratory and machine shop areas have benches, storage cabinets, or fume hoods constructed with asbestos-containing material.

Asbestos-containing material, such as pipe insulation, gaskets, flex duct connections, and roofing asphalt may be found in areas not normally accessed by the public.

ASBESTOS FACTS

When kept intact, asbestos does *not* pose a hazard. For example, as long as the outer canvas cover or metal sheathing on the pipes is intact, pipe insulation does not present a health problem. An individual can develop mesothelioma (i.e., lung cancer) if chronically exposed to airborne asbestos fibers.

BUILDING OCCUPANTS SHOULD AVOID DISTURBING BUILDING MATERIALS:

- > Do *not* hammer nails into walls.
- > Do *not* put hooks into ceilings.
- > Do *not* install shelves on walls.
- > Do *not* pull up carpeting that is glued down.

ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT

University facilities maintenance departments are responsible for properly managing asbestos in their buildings and related spaces according to an [Asbestos Management Plan](#). This plan outlines functions the department and/or their contractor will perform with regards to training, notification, monitoring, jobsite controls, safe work practices, recordkeeping, and other requirements for maintaining asbestos in-place and for instances when asbestos may be disturbed.

REQUIRED TRAINING & CERTIFICATION

Any work involving asbestos-containing materials must be performed only by personnel who have completed [Asbestos Awareness Training](#) or are certified asbestos workers using proper work practices, containment equipment and personal protective equipment. Register for training on the [EH&S website](#).

Visit the [Asbestos and Other Regulated Building Materials](#) webpage or contact EH&S at 206.543.7388 for more information.