

# PREVENT ASBESTOS EXPOSURE AND PROTECT FLOOR TILES



Some University buildings contain intact asbestos in [building materials](#) including floor tiles. University units and departments should follow these guidelines to prevent exposure to asbestos-containing material.

## PREVENT ASBESTOS EXPOSURE

Prevent potential asbestos exposure to yourself and others by doing the following:

- **Immediately report damaged** ceilings, walls, insulation, floor tiles, or other building materials to EH&S at 206.543.7262 or to your facility manager ([Facilities Regulated Materials Office](#) on the Seattle campus).
- **Request a building materials survey** prior to the start of a project that may involve disturbing building materials that may contain asbestos.

If an asbestos survey has *not* been conducted, all building materials are treated as asbestos-containing until it's confirmed they do not contain asbestos.

- **Do not enter** construction areas or [restricted access areas](#).

### AVOID EXPOSURE TO ASBESTOS:

- > **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.**

## PROTECT FLOOR TILES

Floor tiles can contain low percentages of asbestos bound into a matrix that reduces the potential for the release of asbestos-containing fibers. Over time, however, the wear and tear on floors by rolling or sliding chairs and moving furniture or equipment can damage floor tiles. **Damaged floor tiles can release particles that may include asbestos fibers.**

EH&S and UW Facilities request that departments purchase **floor mats** to protect floors from chair casters and prevent floor tile damage.

If your floor tile or sheeting already shows signs of wear, contact your facility manager ([UW Facilities](#) on the Seattle campus) to assess its condition and whether it contains asbestos.

EH&S coordinates with University units and departments to evaluate potential risk of asbestos exposure and implement controls if needed.

## MORE INFORMATION

Visit the [Asbestos and Other Regulated Building Materials](#) webpage on the EH&S website for additional guidance and information on preventing exposures to regulated building materials.

Contact EH&S at 206.543.7388 or [ehsdept@uw.edu](mailto:ehsdept@uw.edu) for more information.