

Where You Might Find Asbestos

- Floor tiles
- Drywall mud
- Asbestos cement products
- Textiles and composites
- Sprayed coatings on ceilings, walls and beams/columns, textured coatings
- Asbestos insulating board
- Lagging such as pipe lagging found in mechanical rooms
- Loose asbestos in ceiling or floor cavity

What to Do When Dealing With Asbestos

1. Call Facilities Maintenance Department.
2. Close the area immediately to all staff and the public.
3. Clearly mark the designated work area boundary by placing barricades, fences and similar structures or yellow warning tape around the work area.
4. Place signs around the work area warning people not to enter the work area unless authorized to do so.
5. Make sure to ensure NO ONE ENTERS THE AREA!

KEEP YOURSELF AND OTHERS OUT OF THE CONTAMINATED ASBESTOS AREA!

If you see broken tiles or damaged drywall and you are unsure if it contains asbestos materials, please contact:

**Facility Management
Work Control Centre**
604-233-3307

Robb Armstrong
604-276-4330
604-340-1294 (cell)

or

Karen Sinclair
604-244-1289
778-233-8793



What to Do When Dealing With Damaged Asbestos in Your Facility



City of Richmond

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www.richmond.ca
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Occupational Health & Safety
www.richmond.ca

Overview

The City of Richmond has an asbestos management program in place and all buildings that contain asbestos have been inventoried and identified. If asbestos has been located within a room, information labels can be found in doorways and on walls.

Many of the City of Richmond's buildings, like the majority of Canadian buildings constructed before 1989, have asbestos containing materials within two typical examples. Inside floor tiles as well as the joint compound (also known as drywall compound or mud) used to seal joints between sheets of drywall. Both examples are considered safe unless damage has been done to the walls or floors.


What is asbestos?

Asbestos is a strong, fire-resistant mineral fibre. In the past, asbestos was used as insulation against heat or noise and for fire protection. It was also added to materials such as cement and plaster to give them more structural strength. Until the early 1980s, many products containing asbestos were used in building construction. Some products, such as asbestos-containing vermiculite insulation, were used in buildings right up until 1989. If asbestos-containing materials are in good condition and left intact (if concealed/encapsulated), they do not pose a significant danger of releasing asbestos fibres into the air you breathe. However, these materials are very hazardous when they deteriorate or are disturbed, such as when they are handled, sanded, drilled into, or broken up.

Health Hazards of Asbestos

Renovating or demolishing buildings containing asbestos products can release asbestos fibres, which are extremely fine and can stay in the air for hours. Breathing in asbestos fibres may cause serious health problems, including lung disease and cancer. Asbestosis is the name given to scarring and stiffening of the lungs caused by inhaling asbestos dust over many years. It makes breathing difficult and may lead to fatal diseases such as pneumonia and heart disease. Exposure to asbestos can also cause lung cancer and mesothelioma, which is a rare cancer of the linings of the lungs and abdomen. Asbestos-related diseases usually develop many years after a person has been exposed to asbestos. The risk of developing these diseases increases with the amount of asbestos in the air you inhale and the length of time you are exposed. Smokers are at an increased risk.

City of Richmond



CAUTION
ASBESTOS-CONTAINING MATERIALS

The following materials in this room contain asbestos:

Material

- Vinyl flooring tiles
- Linoleum sheet flooring
- Asphalt floor planking
- HVAC ductwork mastic
- Cement (transite) boards
- Cement (transite) pipe
- Textured paint
- Drywall joint compound
- Acoustic plaster
- Thermal system insulation

Location

<input type="checkbox"/> Floor	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Walls	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Ceilings	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Ceiling space	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Wall cavities	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Mechanical pipes/vessels	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

DO NOT DISTURB WITHOUT PROPER TRAINING AND PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Damage to the above-noted materials must be reported to the Manager of Facility Maintenance and Operations
(604) 233-3307

