



What Should I Do With Asbestos in My Home?

Many homeowners have asbestos-containing materials in their homes. To properly identify these materials, homeowners should have an inspection performed by a Delaware-licensed certified professional service firm. Any asbestos-containing material that is in good condition and will not be disturbed should be left alone.

However, if the material is deteriorating, or will be disturbed during renovation or demolition, it must be removed. Homeowners in single family, owner-occupied homes may do the work themselves provided they package and dispose of the asbestos waste properly.

However, homeowners should use extreme caution when dealing with asbestos-containing materials, and should consider using a licensed certified asbestos abatement contractor for most removal projects. Information is available from DNREC Division of Air Quality on how a homeowner can remove asbestos-containing cement siding from their home.

For More Information



Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control



Division of Air Quality

715 Grantham Lane
New Castle, DE 19720
302-323-4542 (New Castle County)
302-739-9402 (Kent/Sussex County)

For information on Delaware licensed certified professional service firms and abatement contractors:

Office of Management and Budget -
Division of Facilities Management
302-739-5644

dfm.delaware.gov

For additional information on asbestos and its health impacts:

epa.gov/asbestos



Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control



What Delaware Building Owners and Contractors Should Know

What Is Asbestos?

Asbestos is the common name for a group of naturally occurring mineral fibers that are known for their high tensile strength and thermal insulating properties. It is commonly found in a variety of building construction materials and products. Examples include:

- Heating system insulation
- Spray-applied insulation
- Vinyl floor tiles
- Vinyl sheet flooring
- Ceiling tiles
- Adhesives and construction mastics
- Roofing paper and shingles
- Cement siding shingles
- Plaster and joint compound
- Vermiculite

Why Is Asbestos a Problem?

When asbestos is disturbed, it can break down into microscopic fibers that may become airborne. Once airborne, these fibers can be inhaled and trapped in the lungs, posing a health threat. Breathing asbestos can cause respiratory diseases including asbestosis, lung cancer, and mesothelioma, a fatal cancer of the chest cavity lining.

How Should Asbestos Be Managed to Minimize Health Risks?

The greatest potential for exposure to asbestos fibers now occurs when asbestos-containing building materials are disturbed during either building renovations or demolitions. All building owners – residential and commercial – should be aware of what steps should be taken to properly identify and address asbestos hazards in structures prior to beginning any work that might disturb asbestos-containing materials.



What Are the Requirements for Renovation and Demolition Projects?

A thorough inspection must be conducted for the presence of asbestos-containing building materials prior to any building renovation or demolition project. The inspection must be conducted by a Delaware-licensed certified professional service firm.

If asbestos is found during the inspection and will be disturbed during any renovation or repair work, it must be properly removed and disposed of at an approved landfill. Likewise, all asbestos must be removed prior to any building demolition project. In most cases, asbestos abatement activities must be performed by a Delaware-licensed certified asbestos abatement contractor.

Lists of certified professional services, and certified asbestos abatement contractors are maintained by Delaware's Office of Management and Budget – Division of Facilities Management at dfm.delaware.gov/envsrv/asbestos.

A list of approved landfills is maintained by DNREC's Division of Waste and Hazardous Substances at dswa.com/facilities/landfills

Notification

Each facility owner must provide written notification to DNREC at least 10 working days before any building demolition activity occurs. This notification is required for **all building demolition projects**, regardless of the amount of asbestos present, even when no asbestos is present.

For renovation projects, written notification is required at least 10 working days prior to any asbestos abatement performed as part of the renovation if the abatement involves greater than 260 linear feet, or 160 square feet, or 35 cubic feet of asbestos-containing building material. No notification is required for renovations if the amount of asbestos-containing material is less than this, or if there is no asbestos-containing material present that will be disturbed during the renovation.

The required Demolition/Renovation Notification Form must be submitted to DNREC by facility owners/asbestos contractors online or by mail. The form can be found at dnrec.delaware.gov/air/asbestos/renovation-demolition, or by contacting the DNREC Division of Air Quality at DNREC_Asbestos@delaware.gov.



Do not illegally dump asbestos waste.