

# Before you renovate or demolish ...



Information you must know about state and federal requirements regarding asbestos.

*Did you know ...* all public and commercial buildings, regardless of age or construction type, must be inspected for asbestos before any renovation or demolition activity begins? This is a requirement under the North Dakota Air Pollution Control Rules and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants regulations.

## *What is asbestos?*

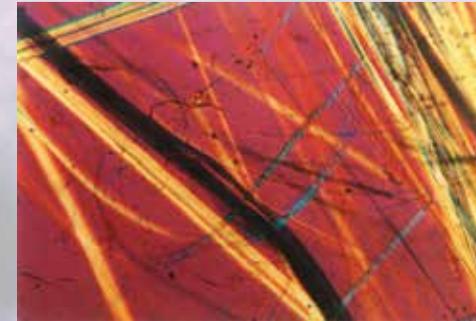
Asbestos is a group of naturally occurring minerals whose crystals form long, thin fibers. It has been used in thousands of products and has unique properties, such as high tensile strength, flexibility, acoustical properties, and resistance to thermal, chemical and electrical conditions. If inhaled, asbestos can cause diseases such as lung cancer, mesothelioma and asbestosis.

## *What common products contain asbestos?*

Asbestos has been used in more than 3,600 different building products, including spray-on ceiling and wall texture, fireproofing, plaster, pipe coverings, floor tile, ceiling tile, roofing felt, concrete pipes and exterior siding.

## *Can I inspect for asbestos myself?*

Asbestos inspections must be performed by a trained asbestos inspector certified by the North Dakota Department of Health. In addition, samples of materials must be collected by a certified asbestos inspector. Asbestos in materials can be identified only by using a microscope.



*Asbestos fibers (in blue)*

## *What if the inspector finds asbestos in an area that will be renovated or demolished?*

The action depends upon the type and amount of asbestos found and whether or not the asbestos-containing material (ACM) is friable or nonfriable. Friable means that the material contains more than 1 percent asbestos and, when dry, can be crumbled, pulverized or reduced to powder by hand pressure or mechanical forces. In North Dakota, the affected area must be more than three square feet or three linear feet for the North Dakota Air Pollution Control Rules to apply.

EPA has identified three categories of asbestos-containing material:

**(1) Regulated Asbestos - Containing Material** This category includes, but is not limited to, all friable asbestos-containing material such as pipe coverings, ceiling and wall texture, plaster, fireproofing and ceiling tile. This material must be removed properly before the renovation or demolition activity begins. This category also includes nonfriable ACM that may become friable during the activity. Once removed, the ACM must be disposed of in an approved landfill.

**(2) Category I Nonfriable Asbestos - Containing Material** This category includes, but is not limited to, packings, gaskets, resilient floor covering such as linoleum and floor tile, and asphalt roofing products that contain more than 1 percent asbestos. These products may have to be removed before renovation. These products do not have to be removed before demolition if in good condition and will not become friable during the activity.

**(3) Category II Nonfriable Asbestos - Containing Material** This category includes any material not included under Category I, such as exterior siding or cement piping, that contains



more than 1 percent asbestos. Most of these products must be removed before renovation or demolition begins.

### ***Can I remove asbestos myself?***

Regulated asbestos-containing material more than 3 square feet or 3 linear feet must be removed by certified individuals and contractors licensed by the North Dakota Department of Health. Category I and Category II nonfriable ACM can be removed by non-certified individuals who have asbestos training according to OSHA regulations.



### ***Are all commercial and public buildings included in the regulation? What about residential buildings?***

All institutional, commercial, public and industrial structures, installations and buildings are regulated. Residential buildings, including condominiums or individual dwelling units operated as residential cooperatives, with more than four dwelling units also are regulated.

Single family residences usually are exempt, unless a group of residences on the same site under the same ownership are demolished or renovated as part of a larger project, such as highway construction or building expansion. In that case, the homes are regulated. It is not generally recommended that a homeowner of a single family residence remove friable asbestos-containing material themselves; this is best done by a trained asbestos contractor.

### ***My building is new and I do not believe it contains asbestos. Do I still need to have it inspected?***

Even though most asbestos-containing materials have been banned from production, some materials are still used and an asbestos inspection would be required in a new building. However, in a K-12 school building constructed after October 12, 1988, a letter from the building architect or contractor stating no asbestos was used in construction can be substituted for an inspection.

### ***Whom do I have to notify when I renovate a building that contains asbestos?***

When more than 160 square feet or 260 linear feet of regulated ACM will be disturbed, a Notification of Demolition and Renovation form must be submitted to the North Dakota Department of Health at least 10 working days in advance.

### ***My building does not contain asbestos and will be demolished. Do I still need to notify the state?***

The North Dakota Department of Health must be notified of all building demolitions at least 10 working days in advance, even if asbestos is not present.

### ***What will happen if I fail to comply with these requirements?***

Failure to comply with these requirements may result in enforcement actions, including fines and penalties. In some cases, individuals and companies can be prosecuted criminally. Both the building owner and the contractor share the responsibility of making sure these requirements are met.



### ***Where can I get a list of inspectors and licensed contractors and necessary forms?***

This information can be obtained by calling the North Dakota Department of Health at 701.328.5188, or by visiting our website at:

<http://www.ndhealth.gov/AQ/IAQ/ASB>

**For more information, please contact:**



#### **Bismarck Office:**

Division of Air Quality  
Asbestos Control Program  
918 E. Divide, 2nd Floor  
Bismarck, ND 58501  
Phone: 701.328.5188  
Fax: 701.328.5185

#### **Fargo Office:**

Division of Air Quality  
Asbestos Control Program  
1120 28th Ave. N., Suite B  
Fargo, ND 58102  
Phone: 701.499.5208  
Fax: 701.235.7394