

ASBESTOS

AN OVERVIEW OF A BUILDING REGULATED MATERIAL

WHAT IS ASBESTOS?

Asbestos is a fibrous silicate mineral that was put into 3,000 building products for its fire resistance, heat/cold properties, tensile strength, chemical resistance, and other properties. If asbestos containing materials are left intact, they pose no health risk to the occupants. Inhalation of these fibers upon damage to the asbestos containing materials can pose health risks.

Damage to these materials can release asbestos fibers into the air which pose a potential inhalation hazard. In the case of exposure, asbestos fibers are invisible to the naked eye and cannot be detected by odor, irritation, nor cause sneezing. For more information about asbestos building products, see the focus sheet Asbestos in Buildings.

Environmental Health & Safety has established policies and guidelines to manage and control asbestos at UW and associated facilities.



RESOURCES

The following resources are available on the EH&S website:

- [Administrative Policy Statement \(APS\) 12.1](#) "Managing Asbestos and other Regulated Building Materials" - outlines general responsibilities of University organizational units in managing asbestos and other regulated building materials
- EH&S Asbestos Management Plan (PDF) establishes policy and procedures to maintain and manage asbestos containing material (ACM)
- Facilities Services Asbestos Operations and Maintenance Program Template (Word)
- Asbestos Design Guide for Public Works Projects (PDF)
- Asbestos - Installing Equipment/Furnishings (PDF)
- Preventing Asbestos Exposure and Protecting Floor Tiles (PDF)
- Asbestos Restricted Areas Program (PDF)

For questions about asbestos and other building regulated materials, contact EH&S at 206.543.7262.