

# ASBESTOS IN BUILDINGS



Many buildings at the University were constructed with asbestos containing materials (ACM). The information below can help you avoid the hazards of asbestos.

## WHICH MATERIALS MAY CONTAIN ASBESTOS?

Some University buildings contain intact asbestos materials in public access areas. These materials may include:

- Vinyl asbestos floor tiles or linoleum sheet flooring
- Mastic used to attach flooring, ceiling tiles, carpet, cove base or cork board
- Pipe insulation
- Fireproofing
- Joint compounds used in sheetrock walls
- Acoustical/decorative plaster
- Fire doors
- Acoustic ceiling tiles
- Baseboards
- Concrete pipes and siding
- Exterior siding
- Window putty

The asbestos in the materials listed above is usually bonded with vinyl, epoxy, cement, or other materials.

Some laboratory and machine shop areas have benches, storage cabinets, or fume hoods constructed with ACM.

ACM such as pipe insulation, gaskets, flex duct connections, and roofing asphalt may be found in areas not normally accessed by the public.

## ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT

University facilities maintenance departments are responsible for properly managing asbestos in their buildings and related spaces according to

an [Asbestos Management Plan](#). This plan outlines functions the department and/or their contractor will perform with regards to training, notification, monitoring, jobsite controls, safe work practices, recordkeeping, and other requirements for maintaining asbestos in-place and for instances when asbestos may be disturbed.

### REQUIRED TRAINING & CERTIFICATION

Any work involving asbestos containing materials must be performed only by personnel who have received Asbestos Awareness Training or are certified asbestos workers using proper work practices, containment equipment and personal protective equipment.

Register for training on [EH&S's Training page](#):  
<http://www.ehs.washington.edu/training>

## ASBESTOS FACTS

- Under normal conditions the materials do not pose a health threat.
- If the material is cracked, drilled, sanded, or otherwise disturbed, it could result in the release of asbestos fibers into the air that could present a health risk.
- As long as the outer canvas cover or metal sheathing on the pipes is intact, the insulation does not present a health problem.

For questions about asbestos and other building regulated materials, contact EH&S's Occupational Safety & Health team at 206.543.7262.