

## Should I Be Concerned?

- d) Distance from walls that sample was taken
4. Moisten the area where the sample is to be obtained by using an airless mister, such as a plant mister. Note: The addition of a small amount of low-sudsing dish or laundry detergent will improve the penetration of the water into the material and reduce the amount of water needed.
5. To obtain the sample, use a clean knife to cut or scrape off a small piece of the material. Be sure to penetrate all layers of material. Be careful not to disturb adjacent material. Note: Only a small amount of material is needed (the size of a dime or less).
6. Place the sample in the prepared container and seal it tightly.
7. Wipe the exterior of the container with a wet wipe to remove any material which may have adhered to it during sampling.
8. Clean up:
  - a) Clean your knife with a wet wipe.
  - b) If debris is generated from the sampling procedure, wet mop or vacuum area with a HEPA vacuum.
9. Fill the hole with caulking compound and/or spray with an encapsulant.
10. Discard disposable clothing, wet wipes, rags, drop cloth, and cartridge filters in a labeled plastic bag. Seal and retain the bag until lab results are received. If analysis is positive for asbestos, dispose of the bag as asbestos-contaminated waste.

### What do I do if my building/home does contain asbestos?

Unless the material is crumbling and in poor condition, it may be **SAFER** to leave it alone. If you decide to have the material removed, the technical staff of the Asbestos Program can inform you of the following:

1. The proper "do it yourself" abatement procedures,
2. The names of licensed asbestos abatement contractors who can be hired to do the removal for you, and
3. What to watch for if you do hire a contractor.

The MIOASHA Asbestos Program performs the following functions:

- Approves asbestos-related training courses.
- Licenses asbestos abatement contractors.
- Accredits professionals in the asbestos abatement industry.
- Maintains databases of approved trainers, licensed contractors, accredited individuals, and asbestos projects.
- Investigates asbestos-related compliance issues.
- Reviews AHERA management plans.

### How To Protect Yourself?

- ◆ Evacuate area if inadvertent asbestos disturbance activity occurs.
- ◆ Alert your supervisors.
- ◆ Get proper training.
- ◆ Avoid disturbing materials.

### For additional information, please contact us at:

Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs  
Michigan Occupational Safety & Health Administration  
Construction Safety and Health Division  
**Asbestos Program**  
530 West Allegan Street  
P. O. Box 30671  
Lansing, Michigan 48933  
517.284.7680 office • 517.284.7700 fax  
[www.michigan.gov/asbestos](http://www.michigan.gov/asbestos)  
E-mail: [asbestos@michigan.gov](mailto:asbestos@michigan.gov)

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Revised 08/17/2015

FORM # MIOASHA-CSH-N5 Ivory



## Smoking among asbestos workers is strongly discouraged

### The MIOSHA Asbestos Program

The Asbestos Program was initiated in September 1986. It is a section within the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA), Michigan Occupational Safety & Health Administration (MIOSHA), Construction Safety and Health Division (CSHD). The primary function of the program is to ensure that people working with asbestos are properly trained and that individuals performing asbestos abatement comply with rules governing the work activity. These rules are designed to protect not only the individual employee performing asbestos abatement work, but also the general public that occupy the area or building in which the work occurs. The MIOSHA Asbestos Program is the primary enforcement agency for Michigan Public Act 135 of 1986 (The Asbestos Abatement Contractor Licensing Act).

### What is asbestos?

Asbestos is a fiber found in rocks. There are several kinds of asbestos. Asbestos is fire resistant and not easily destroyed. Asbestos containing materials are frequently found in industrial and commercial facilities, schools and universities, and residential properties.

### Is asbestos dangerous?

When first put into products, asbestos was considered a miracle product. However, it has now been proven that asbestos is associated with several diseases that can lead to death.

Studies of people exposed to asbestos have proven that certain kinds of asbestos cause lung and stomach cancer. Currently, experts cannot agree on a level of asbestos that is considered safe.

In some products, the asbestos can break into small fibers that can float in the air and be inhaled into the lungs. These fibers cannot be seen by the naked eye, and are so small that they pass right through the filters of regular vacuum cleaners.

If inhaled, asbestos fibers can become lodged in the lungs. Then, after many years, certain types of cancer can develop.

Not all people exposed to asbestos have health problems that are related to the asbestos. However, the chances of developing serious illnesses and cancer are greater

after exposure to asbestos.

Cigarette smokers who are exposed to asbestos have a much greater risk of lung cancer than nonsmokers who are exposed to asbestos -or- smokers who are not exposed to asbestos.

### Are all products containing asbestos considered a health risk?

A material is only a health risk when asbestos fibers are released from the material and become airborne. Asbestos materials that can be easily crumbled by hand have the greatest potential of releasing asbestos.

### Where can asbestos be found in a building or home?

Asbestos has been used in more than 3,000 different products over the last 100 years for its insulating, acoustical and fire protective properties. Some of the places where asbestos is found are in pipe insulation, floor and ceiling tile, spray on insulation, ceiling and wall insulation, boiler wrap insulation, wall coverings, fire proofing, roofing material, transite siding, and electrical appliances such as a toaster or hair dryer.

### How do I know if my building/home contains asbestos?

The manufacturer of a product will know whether their product contains asbestos. In addition, professionals in the asbestos abatement field will have a general idea of products that contain asbestos. A local environmental laboratory will also be able to test a sample of a material to see if it contains asbestos.

In regards to who can conduct air tests or where to send samples for analysis, we suggest that you consult with your local yellow pages under the following headings:

Asbestos Abatement  
Asbestos Abatement Services  
Asbestos Consultants  
Asbestos Monitoring and Inspection  
Environmental Laboratories/Services  
Laboratories

### How do I make a complaint/referral or take a sample of suspect asbestos material for analysis?

#### • RECOMMENDATIONS

1. In your work place or in your house, if observations indicate that either:
  - a) suspect asbestos-containing materials have been disturbed by untrained or insufficiently trained individuals, or
  - b) That improper work practices were utilized in the removal of suspect asbestos-containing materials (i.e., lack of containment, lack of wet methods, etc.), you have a cause to be concerned.
2. To obtain a material bulk sample of suspect asbestos-containing material, please see the sampling procedures listed below:
  - a) Take photographs of the general area of the sampling area, the actual sample, and labeled container.
  - b) If possible, determine the date of disturbance and/or removal; the company/companies and the company employees who disturbed and/or removed suspect asbestos-containing material; and the amount of material disturbed and/or removed.
  - c) Procure the company's name, address, and telephone number; and obtain a copy of the written contract between the company and building owner.
  - d) Obtain work shift hours and the duration of the project.
  - e) Send the sample to a recognized lab or call the Asbestos Program for a complaint form or other information.

#### • SAMPLING PROCEDURES

We do not advocate a novice obtaining a material sample. In doing so, one could expose himself and others to asbestos fibers and cause further disturbance. However, if it is a necessity, herein lies the procedure:

1. Depending on the position and area, you may wish to spread a plastic drop cloth under the area to be sampled. If it is flooring material to be sampled, isolate your sampling to a specific area so as not to spread possible contaminants over a larger area.
2. For your protection, you may want to wear personal protective equipment (respirator with HEPA/p100 cartridges). It is also advisable to wear disposable clothing or clothing that you could discard.
3. Obtain a container. The container can be any leak tight container (i.e. ziplock bag). Label the container with as much sample location information as possible. Some information may be:
  - a) Building name and address
  - b) Room in the building
  - c) Type of material sampled in the room