



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

We Protect Hoosiers and Our Environment.

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Asbestos Removal, Handling, and Disposal Guidance for Homeowners

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) has been receiving numerous inquiries from homeowners regarding the proper methods for removing, handling, and disposing of asbestos from homes. This document was prepared to provide guidance to homeowners concerning the methods that should be employed and the precautions that should be taken when removing, handling, and disposing of asbestos.

The Office of Air Quality (OAQ) is the responsible office within IDEM that regulates the removal of asbestos containing materials from commercial, industrial, and institutional structures. Residential structures and apartment buildings with four (4) or less units are exempt from the Federal National Emission Standard for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP), and are also exempt from the State requirements of 326 IAC 14-10.

The OAQ suggests that if asbestos containing materials are in good condition--not peeling, cracking or crumbling into a powder or dust--leave them alone. Asbestos is a problem when it is disturbed and, in most cases, can be simply left alone without any concern to the occupants. If homeowners decide to remove asbestos containing materials from residences, OAQ strongly recommends that the asbestos be removed by professional asbestos removal contractors. A complete list of contractors can be provided by the OAQ upon request.

If the homeowners decide to do the removal themselves, the following are only guidelines and not requirements, since residential structures are exempt from State and Federal regulations pertaining to removal:

1. Remove all objects within the work area, then cover the work area with heavy plastic.
2. Turn off the furnace or air conditioning system during the removal and cover all registers and return air vents in the area with plastic.
3. Wear disposable coveralls to prevent contamination of clothing and always wear a respirator equipped with a high efficiency particulate air filter (HEPA) during removal and cleanup.
4. Asbestos is a problem when inhaled or ingested, thus the use of water is very important to suppress any dust which may arise during the removal. A fine spray from a hose, garden sprayer, or water bottle prior to and during the removal is very important to prevent any fiber release into the air.

5. Remove the asbestos with caution to prevent any crumbling, breaking, tearing or ripping which would release asbestos fibers into the air.
6. Place removed material into leak-tight containers or thick plastic bags and seal with duct tape.
7. Make sure all surface areas are free of any visible dust or contamination. Wet wipe all areas in the work area with soap and water..
8. Carefully roll up the plastic used to cover the work area and also dispose of in leak-tight containers along with coveralls and HEPA filter cartridges.
9. Immediately wash any clothing worn under the protective coveralls and shower thoroughly.

Any questions concerning removal of asbestos containing materials can be addressed by telephoning an asbestos compliance and enforcement manager at (800) 451-6027.

The Office of Land Quality (OLQ) is the office within IDEM that regulates the disposal of asbestos containing materials from commercial, industrial, and institutional structures. All residential structures are exempt from the State disposal requirements of 329 IAC 10-8.1-12. However, homeowners should be aware that they are not exempt from 329 IAC 10-4-2 which states, "No person shall cause or allow the storage, containment, processing, or disposal of solid waste in a manner which creates a threat to human health or the environment, including the creating of a fire hazard, vector attraction, air or water pollution, or contamination." Therefore, to maintain compliance with 329 IAC 10-4-2, the following disposal guidance should be followed.

Asbestos containing materials such as packing, gaskets, floor tile and asphalt roofing products, which are in good condition, may be disposed at any permitted municipal solid waste landfill without any special handling or disposal methods being incorporated. Such materials have been shown not to cause asbestos fiber releases during normal disposal activities. However, other asbestos containing building materials both nonfriable (i.e. transite and slate board roofing) and friable (i.e., pipe insulation and duct insulation) have been shown to release asbestos fibers during normal handling and compaction activities at the disposal site. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that these asbestos containing materials be disposed at a municipal solid waste landfill which is permitted to accept special waste (see attachment). In addition, to protect the homeowner and landfill operator, such asbestos containing materials should be packaged in leak tight containers and each container labeled with the homeowner's and contractor's (if used) name, address and telephone number. The container(s) need also to indicate that asbestos containing materials are enclosed.

It is also recommended that the landfill be contacted prior to shipping any asbestos containing materials. Generally twenty four (24) hours notice is considered acceptable. Advance notice enables the landfill to ensure that personnel are on-site to handle the asbestos. Also, the landfill may request additional packaging requirements to ensure that the asbestos will not pose a hazard during handling and disposal. The attached "Asbestos Waste Shipment/Disposal Record" may be utilized to provide the homeowner with a receipt from the landfill indicating that the asbestos was disposed properly.

***Homeowners should always contact their health department to be certain that any local ordinances governing asbestos are being followed.**

****Consumer Product Safety Commission at 1-800-638-CPSC, has information on laboratories for asbestos testing and where to obtain asbestos removal equipment.**

Any questions concerning disposal of asbestos containing materials can be addressed by telephoning a special waste inspector at (800) 451-6027.