



*Improperly removed asbestos from home renovation project.*

### What should I do with asbestos in my home?

Many homeowners have asbestos-containing materials in their homes. To properly identify these materials, homeowners should have an inspection performed by a Delaware licensed asbestos inspector. Any asbestos-containing material that is in good condition and will not be disturbed should be left alone.

However, if the material is deteriorating, or will be disturbed during renovation or demolition, it must be removed. Homeowners in single family, owner-occupied homes may do the work themselves provided they package and dispose of the waste properly.

However, homeowners should use extreme caution when dealing with asbestos-containing materials, and should consider using a licensed asbestos abatement contractor for most removal projects. Information is available from DNREC-AQM on how a homeowner can remove asbestos-containing materials from their home.

### For More Information

For information on asbestos management and control in Delaware:

Asbestos Management & Control Program  
Air Quality Management  
Department of Natural Resources &  
Environmental Control  
715 Grantham Lane  
New Castle, DE 19720  
(302) 323-4542 (New Castle County)  
(302) 739-9402 (Kent/Sussex County)

<http://www.awm.delaware.gov/AQM/Asbestos/Pages/default.aspx>

For information on Delaware Licensed Asbestos Inspection Firms and Abatement Contractors:

Office of Management & Budget –  
Division of Facilities Management  
(302) 739-5644

<http://www.dfm.delaware.gov>

For additional information on asbestos and its health impacts:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
[www.epa.gov/asbestos/](http://www.epa.gov/asbestos/)

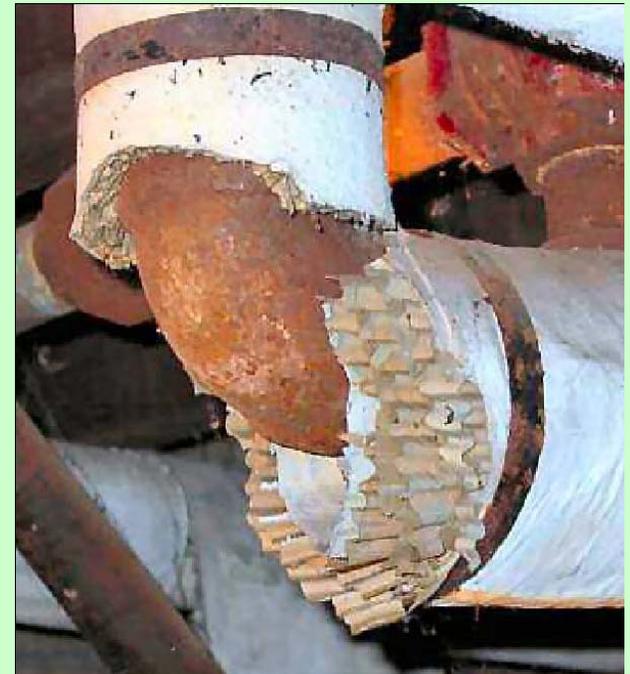


<http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/>

40-09-02/0610/02

# Asbestos

## What Building Owners & Contractors in Delaware Should Know



*Damaged asbestos pipe insulation.*

2006  
Updated 2008

Delaware Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control

## What is asbestos?

Asbestos is the common name for a group of naturally occurring mineral fibers that are known for their high tensile strength and thermal insulating properties. It is commonly found in a variety of building construction materials and products. Examples include:

- Heating system insulation
- Spray-applied insulation
- Vinyl floor tiles
- Vinyl sheet flooring
- Ceiling tiles
- Adhesives and construction mastics
- Roofing paper and shingles
- Cement siding shingles
- Plaster and joint compound
- Vermiculite



Vermiculite insulation found in an attic.

## Why is asbestos a problem?

When asbestos is disturbed, it can break down into microscopic fibers that may become airborne. Once airborne, these fibers can be inhaled and trapped in the lungs, posing a health threat. Breathing asbestos can cause respiratory diseases including asbestosis, lung cancer, and mesothelioma, a fatal cancer of the chest cavity lining.

## How should asbestos be managed to minimize health risks?

The greatest potential for exposure to asbestos fibers now occurs when asbestos-containing building materials are disturbed during either building renovations or demolitions. All building owners – residential and commercial – should be aware of what steps should be taken to properly identify and address asbestos hazards in structures prior to beginning any work that might disturb asbestos-containing materials.

## What are the requirements for building renovation and demolition projects?

### Inspection

A thorough inspection must be conducted for the presence of asbestos-containing building materials prior to any building renovation or demolition project. The inspection must be conducted by a person licensed by Delaware in the identification of asbestos-containing building materials.

If asbestos is found during the inspection and will be disturbed during any renovation or repair work, it must be properly removed and disposed of at an approved landfill. Likewise, all asbestos must be removed prior to any building demolition project. In most cases, asbestos abatement activities must be performed by a Delaware licensed abatement contractor.

Lists of licensed asbestos inspectors, and licensed abatement contractors are maintained by the Delaware's Office of Management & Budget – Division of Facilities Management.

A list of approved landfills is maintained by DNREC's Solid & Hazardous Waste Branch.

**Chapter 78, Title 16 – “Asbestos,” of the Delaware Code establishes certain requirements for licensing abatement contractors and to properly address and abate asbestos hazards.**

### Notification

Each facility owner must provide written notification to DNREC at least ten working days before any building demolition activity occurs. This notification is required for *all building demolition projects*, regardless of the amount of asbestos present, even when no asbestos is present.

For renovation projects, written notification is required at least ten working days prior to any asbestos abatement performed as part of the renovation if the abatement involves greater than 260 linear feet, or 160 square feet of asbestos-containing building material. No notification is required for renovations if the amount of asbestos-containing material is less than this, or if there is no asbestos-containing material present that will be disturbed during the renovation.

The **Demolition/Renovation Notification Form** must be submitted to DNREC via the mail or facility owners/asbestos contractors may register online to submit Notifications electronically via DNREC's on-line eGov website at <https://egov.dnrec.state.de.us/egovpublic>.

Copies of the Delaware Asbestos Notification and Inspection forms may be obtained by contacting DNREC-AQM.

**Copies of ALL notifications must also be sent to**  
USEPA-Region 3  
Attn. Asbestos Coordinator  
1650 Arch Street Philadelphia, PA 19103.