



University of Massachusetts Amherst Asbestos Awareness

During the 1970's the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Occupational Health and Safety Association (OSHA) began regulating the use and management of asbestos. It is required that schools, workplaces, and facilities implement stringent protocols regarding safe and effective methods for handling, removing, and disposing of asbestos containing materials (ACM). The University of Massachusetts Amherst's (UMass) goals are to protect personnel and students from exposure and comply with all state and federal regulations that pertain to asbestos in the work place. The management of asbestos is of importance and of major concern to the UMass Environmental Health and Safety Department and all departments that work with or around this material on a frequent basis. This flyer provides an overview and an introduction to asbestos management at UMass.

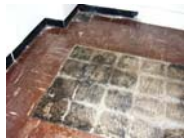
What is Asbestos?

- Naturally occurring asbestos includes fibrous minerals found in certain types of rock formations.
- Durable, fire and water resistant, chemically and thermally stable material.
- Material used in many different industrial capacities
- Found to have negative health effects on humans who have repeated exposure to ACM.

Purpose of UMass Asbestos Management Policy

- Protect employees, students, contractors, and visitors from potential asbestos related health hazards.
- Prevent any unforeseen accidents during asbestos abatement activities.
- Allow for appropriate construction, renovation, and demolition project planning.
- Insure regulatory compliance with state and federal regulations.
- Insure that campus personnel involved with asbestos management are adequately trained and qualified.
- Protect property and facilities at UMASS.

Examples of Potential ACM at UMass Amherst



*Cement Pipes
Ceiling Tiles
Pipe Insulation*



*Joint Compound
Plaster*

*Vinyl Floor Tile
Floor Tile Mastic*



*Fume Hoods
HVAC Duct Insulation
Fireproofing Material*



Asbestos Dos and Don'ts for Building Occupants

- EHS should be contacted anytime a building occupant comes across any damaged material that they think may contain asbestos (e.g., insulated pipe, floor tiles, dry wall).
- Do not clean up fallen ceiling tiles or broken floor tiles until it is determined they are not asbestos.
- All renovation work must be performed by or contracted through Physical Plant or Facilities & Campus Planning. There are State and Federal Regulations that only permit accredited personnel to perform asbestos related activities.
- Undertaking even the smallest renovation job or dismantling equipment without proper planning or improper equipment may result in exposure to asbestos, lead, or another hazardous material.

What is UMass Amherst Doing?

UMass uses an environmental management system (EMS) framework to properly manage and oversee asbestos on campus. The EMS is a result of a MA Department of Environmental Protection administrative consent order. Use of the EMS has resulted in inter-departmental collaboration and comprehensive policies and procedures that will help UMass achieve the policy commitments listed above.

For More Information

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