

Environmental Health and Safety Asbestos Policy Summary Sheet (July 2019)



THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO

Who is Responsible for Asbestos Safety?

Environmental Health and Safety	Project Manager and/or Campus Planning	Facility Manager and/or Engineering Shops
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Maintains an inventory of all reasonably accessible asbestos materials. ◆ Procures services of consultant and contractor for maintenance and project work. ◆ Central repository for close-documents (notifications, manifests, and clearance results). ◆ Continuously inspect integrity of asbestos during routine safety work requests. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Notify EHS if project activities will disturb suspect asbestos materials. ◆ Provide a copy of the asbestos inspection and EHS Asbestos Policy to all contractors. ◆ Requesting a certification from the architect of record which states <i>"no asbestos finishes were specified during construction."</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Notify EHS if asbestos is damaged or a maintenance activity will disturb suspect asbestos materials. ◆ Facilitate access for asbestos abatement activities. ◆ Coordinate lock-out/tag-out procedures for electricity and HVAC for full containment removal projects.

What is asbestos?

Asbestos:

A generic term for a group of naturally occurring minerals (Chrysotile, Amosite, Crocidolite)

Properties of asbestos:

Chemical resistant, insulates against electricity and extreme temperatures, strengthens and increases durability, and absorbs sound.

Hazards:

Considered an inhalation hazard. If exposed to high concentrations for a long period of time asbestos exposure may cause asbestos-related diseases (Asbestosis or lung cancer).

Where is asbestos?

Contact EHS for a campus map and corroborating list of asbestos materials.

12"x12" floor tile	Plaster/Drywall
9"x9" floor tile	Tank Insulation
Sheet flooring	Pipe insulation
Terrazzo	Fire-proofing
Carpet mastic	Ceiling Tiles
Leveling compound	Lab benches
Fume hood panels	Duct insulation

How do I initiate asbestos work?

Notify your supervisor, who will submit an Asbestos Request Form via "Quick Links" on safety.uchicago.edu.

Provide the details of your scope of work, so EHS can determine if asbestos materials will be impacted.

If demolition plans are available please e-mail them to safety@uchicago.edu after submitting the request form.

Notifications

Project and Maintenance Work:

- ◆ The Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) requires **10 business days**
- ◆ An Asbestos Request Form **DOES NOT** trigger the submittal of a notification to the City and State.
- ◆ In order to submit a notice we need the following information: Type (floor tile, pipe); exact quantity (SF, LF); start date, end date, shift time, consultant's and contractor's State-license numbers.
- ◆ We cannot submit a general, open-ended notice: quantities must be within 10%

Emergencies

Emergency Work:

- ◆ We can begin work immediately and submit notification the next business day with a justification of emergency conditions (e.g., water, wind, fire damage).
- ◆ The CDPH requires photographic documentation of the hazard
- ◆ Emergency abatements only apply to abatements which are needed to:
 - ◆ Prevent exposure to asbestos
 - ◆ Make repairs to prevent further property damage
 - ◆ Make repairs to restore critical operations

Asbestos Myths

Asbestos was banned completely:

- ◆ Only paper-products and felts have banned the use of asbestos.
- ◆ You can still purchase floor tile, mastics, caulks, roofing systems that contain asbestos.

Asbestos is always hazardous and has to be removed if discovered:

- ◆ On the contrary, regulatory agencies recommend maintaining the material in place if it's stable and won't be subjected to damage.
- ◆ No law exists mandating the removal of intact asbestos finishes.