

a homeowner's guide.

asbestos in the home.



Lane Regional Air Protection Agency

Note: New regulations require that an asbestos survey be performed by an accredited asbestos inspector prior to most remodeling and demolition activities. Contact LRAPA at (541) 736-1056 (asbestos@lrapa.org) for details.

The Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA) strives to provide accurate, complete and useful information. However, neither LRAPA nor any other person contributing to or assisting in the preparation of this pamphlet - nor any person acting on the behalf of any of these parties - makes any warranty, guarantee or representation (express or implied) with respect to the usefulness or effectiveness of any information, method or process disclosed in this material or assumes any liability for the use of - or for damages arising from the use of - any information, methods or process disclosed in this material.

what is asbestos?

Asbestos is a group of minerals. It is made of strong, very fine fibers that are heat-resistant and extremely durable. Because of this, asbestos has been used a lot in construction. When asbestos material is disturbed or damaged, asbestos can break down into a dust of microscopic size fibers that remain suspended in the air for a long time and can easily be inhaled or ingested.

it is dangerous.

Asbestos in your home may be hazardous to your health, depending on its condition. As long as asbestos is stable, not damaged and well-sealed, it is considered safe. When you can crush it with your hand or the surface isn't sealed to prevent small pieces from escaping, asbestos is called FRIABLE. In this condition, fibers can be released into the air and pose a health risk.



Asbestos can cause lung cancer, asbestosis and mesothelioma. There is no safe level of exposure, so contact with any amount of asbestos should be avoided.

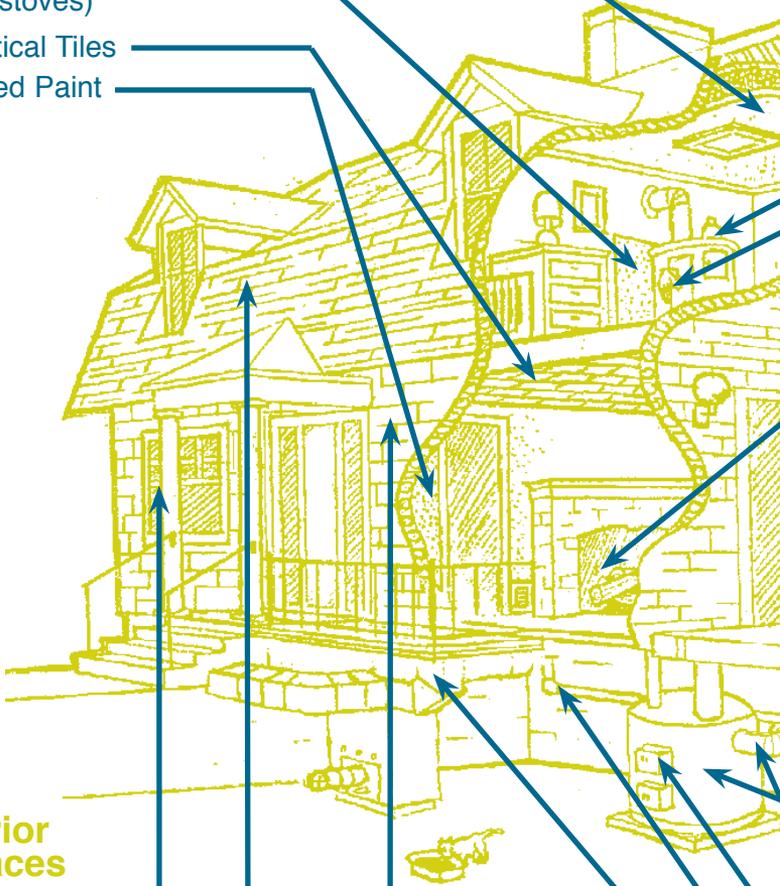
Interior Surfaces

Sprayed-on Popcorn Acoustical Ceilings

Heat Reflectors
(Woodstoves)

Acoustical Tiles

Textured Paint

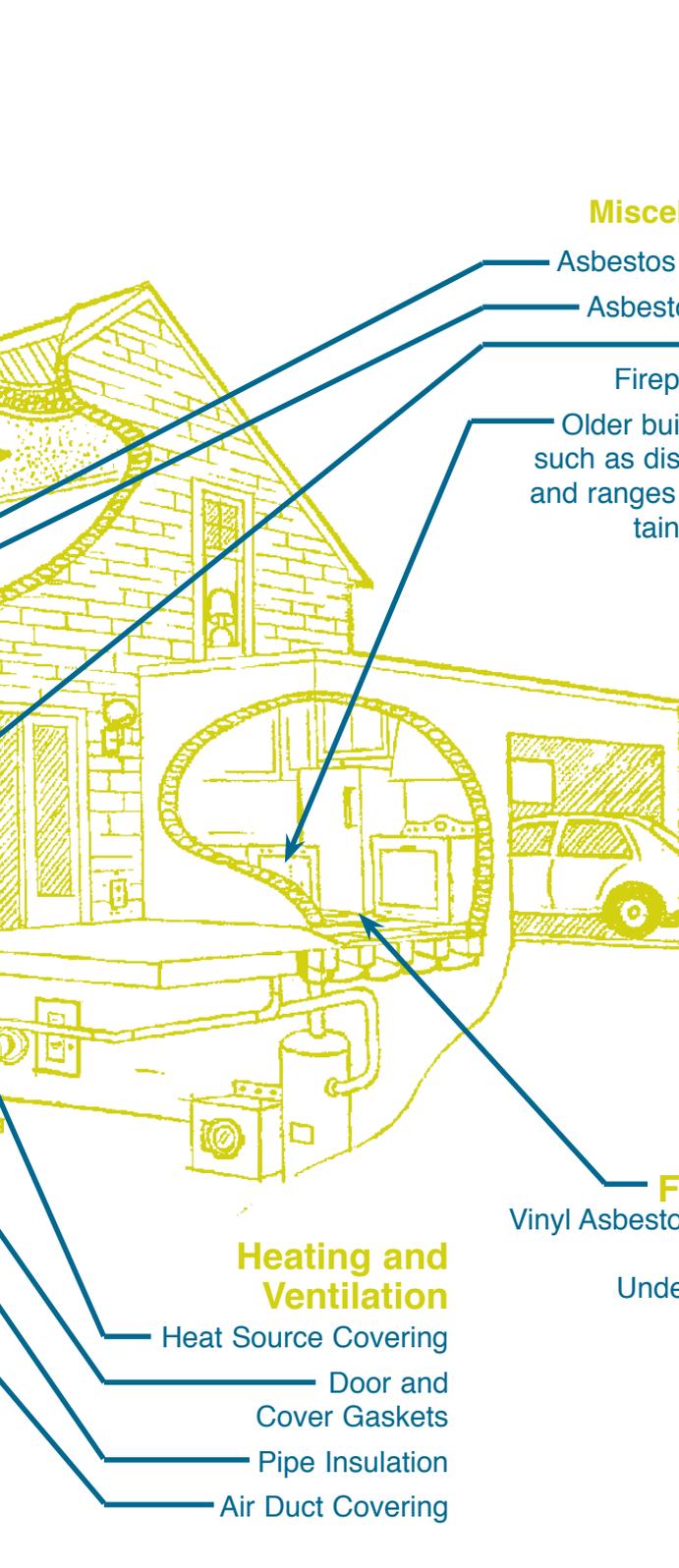


Exterior Surfaces

Window Putty

Roof Felt & Shingles

Cement Asbestos
Board Siding
and Undersheeting



Miscellaneous

- Asbestos Hot Pads
- Asbestos Gloves
- Artificial Fireplace Logs
- Older built-in items such as dishwashers and ranges may contain asbestos

Heating and Ventilation

- Heat Source Covering
- Door and Cover Gaskets
- Pipe Insulation
- Air Duct Covering

Flooring

- Vinyl Asbestos Sheets, Tiles, and Undersheeting

The body's natural defenses cannot keep asbestos fibers out of the body. Asbestos fibers can remain in the body for many years, and may lead to health problems and disease.

Symptoms of these diseases generally do not appear for 10 to 30 years after exposure, so asbestos can cause injuries to the body long before its effects are detectable.

what to look for.

You can't identify asbestos by looking at it. The only safe way to find out if a material contains asbestos is to have a sample of the suspect material analyzed by a laboratory.

To be safe, treat all suspect materials as if they contain asbestos until you get the results of the laboratory analysis.

Laboratories that do this work are usually listed in the Yellow Pages under "Asbestos, Consulting and Testing".

When taking samples, it is important that you do not release asbestos fibers into the air, onto your skin or onto your clothing. To avoid exposing anyone else, only you should be in the room when taking samples.



how ^{to take a} sample.

- ▼ Wet down the material with a light water mist before taking the sample. This reduces the release of asbestos fibers.
- ▼ Don't disturb the material any more than is necessary to take a small sample.
- ▼ Place the sample in a clean container such as a zip-lock plastic bag or small glass jar.
- ▼ Seal the container tightly.
- ▼ Use a damp paper towel to clean up any material on the outside of the container or that might have spilled onto the floor.
- ▼ Clearly label the container stating where and when the sample was taken.
- ▼ Send the sample to a laboratory for analysis, which will probably cost \$20 to \$40 per sample. Make sure to take a sample for each different suspect material.



what to do if you have asbestos.

In good condition (not broken or disturbed) asbestos presents no danger. There's a good chance you can solve problems involving deteriorating asbestos without removing the asbestos. Removal is generally the last resort because it involves disturbing the material and sending more asbestos fibers into the air.

Once it becomes damaged, however, or when materials containing asbestos need to be replaced due to remodeling or renovation, the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA) recommends that you call a professional asbestos abatement contractor who has special training to deal with these materials.



A licensed asbestos abatement contractor will use glove bags for pipe insulation removal, or erect an enclosure of two layers of plastic for removing materials such as ceiling spray-on asbestos and flooring. A contractor will have a HEPA vacuum, a negative pressure air

machine, approved respirators, disposable clothing and a supply of glove bags and miscellaneous tools for the asbestos removal and cleanup. Air samples may be taken after work is completed to ensure that the area is clean and safe.

For a list of Oregon licensed asbestos contractors call the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency at (541) 736-1056.

don't do it yourself.

There is no law against a homeowner repairing or removing asbestos. If you decide to do your own work, make sure you get asbestos safety equipment such as respirators, disposable clothing, and 6 mil plastic bags from a safety equipment store listed in the Yellow Pages.

For the safety of you and your family, LRAPA strongly recommends that you do not do your own asbestos removal. Removing asbestos requires special equipment and detailed training which is expensive and time-consuming for a homeowner. What is more important, however, is that removing asbestos without proper training poses a health risk from fibers being released.

hiring the right contractor.

When choosing a professional to work with asbestos, remember that most home repair or remodeling contractors do not have an asbestos abatement license or certified workers and are not equipped to work safely with asbestos. Without proper equipment and expertise, uncertified workers could spread asbestos fibers throughout your home and neighborhood. They may create an asbestos hazard where none existed, or make an existing situation worse.

Before you select a contractor and make an agreement to have asbestos removed from your home, ask the contractor for references from former customers. You should also call LRAPA at (541)736-1056 to determine if the contractor has received asbestos violations or the Construction Contractors Board in Salem at (503) 378-4621 to find out if the contractor has received any other violations.

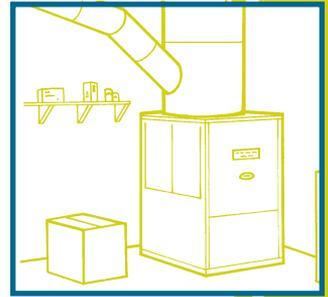
what to do if asbestos has been released in your home.

If you think a significant amount of asbestos has been released in your home (for example, four or five square feet of spray-on ceiling material or one to two feet of pipe insulation):

- ▼ Close off the part of the house where the asbestos release occurred.
- ▼ Close off air ducts and vents.
- ▼ Shut windows.
- ▼ Tape bottoms of doors to prevent drafts.
- ▼ Contact an asbestos professional or LRAPA immediately.
- ▼ Take samples of dust or debris from floor, shelves or window sills to be analyzed by a laboratory.
- ▼ Air samples may also be needed. If so, contact a laboratory or contractor who has the proper training and equipment to take the air samples.

how to repair it.

There's a good chance you can solve problems involving deteriorating asbestos without removing the asbestos. Remember, removal is generally the last resort because it involves disturbing the material and sending more asbestos fibers into the air.

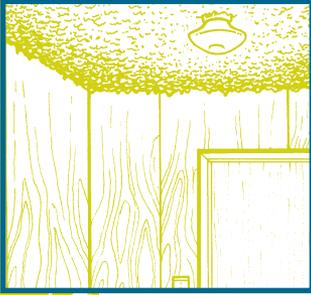


PIPE, FURNACE AND BOILER INSULATION

When the insulation material moves at the touch of your hand or the cover no longer feels firm and tight, the insulation is probably too deteriorated for repair. LRAPA recommends you call an Oregon licensed asbestos abatement contractor for this work.

Only when the insulation is firm and the cover is tight, with very few holes or tears in the insulation (no more than one hole in every one to three feet of pipe covering) should you try to repair it yourself.

To repair areas with minor damage such as this, use commercial products specifically designed to fill holes and seal damaged areas in asbestos pipe insulation. You'll find the necessary equipment and materials at safety stores that specialize in selling asbestos related products.



SPRAYED ON ASBESTOS-CONTAINING MATERIAL ON WALLS AND CEILINGS

Do not disturb this in any way. If the material has never been painted, a coat of penetrating or bridging encapsulant can be sprayed on with an airless sprayer to seal the surface. This will ensure that no fibers are released. **Do not use a brush or roller.** Penetrating encapsulants soak into the material and firmly adhere it to the wall or ceiling. It should be noted that this will make future removal more difficult.

A light coat of latex base paint may be used as a bridging encapsulant and may be used even if the material has previously had an encapsulant applied to it. Remember that you should not build up such a thick coat that the added weight will increase the chances that the material containing the asbestos will fall off the wall or ceiling.

what if you remodel?

If you have material containing asbestos in your home, you may be required to notify authorities before you remodel, dismantle or demolish all or part of your home.

The law requires that “no visible emissions” of dust be allowed during removal, transportation and disposal of materials containing asbestos. LRAPA strongly suggests you do not perform your own asbestos removal. However, if you do, there are certain requirements. Call LRAPA at (541) 736-1056 to find out more.

disposal requirements.

All asbestos waste and the disposable clothing, filters, equipment and building materials must be disposed of as asbestos waste. These materials are not to be cleaned and re-used. The material must be placed in double 6 mil plastic bags, labeled as asbestos, hauled to an approved asbestos landfill in a covered vehicle and disposed of according to state regulations. You or your contractor should contact LRAPA to determine notification, removal and disposal requirements and sites.



disposal procedures.



- 1 Be sure to use pre-printed 6 mil plastic bags purchased from a safety supply store for your asbestos disposal.

“Danger: Contains asbestos fibers.
Avoid creating dust.
Cancer and lung disease hazard.”



- 2 Place all dampened filters, cloths, mopheads and other asbestos wastes into a transparent 6 mil plastic bag.
- 3 Seal the bag with heavy duty tape.
- 4 Place the first bag into a second bag of the same type.

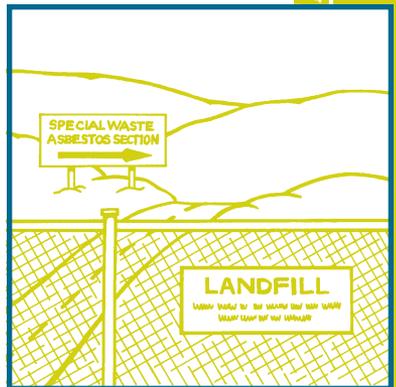
Dispose of asbestos waste materials according to LRAPA regulations.

5 Seal the second bag with heavy duty tape.



6 Take the sealed and labeled bags to an approved waste disposal site.

In Lane County, call Lane County Waste Management at 726-3047 for a disposal appointment before taking the asbestos waste there for disposal.



**Lane Regional
Air Protection Agency
(LRAPA)
(541) 736-1056**

**Original brochure design
and copy courtesy of the
Oregon Department of
Environmental Quality**

