

...Do's and Don'ts, cont'd

- 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 DEP administrative consent order.
- **Use of the EMS** has resulted in interdepartmental collaboration and comprehensive policies and procedures that will help UMass achieve its policy commitments.
- **Provide Asbestos Awareness Training**, so that staff may recognize asbestos containing materials, and contact EH&S if needed.
- **Environmental Services Unit (ESU) oversees day-to-day operations of the ACM Management Program.** It is mainly responsible for maintenance and small abatement jobs. The ESU will contract out jobs that are beyond its scope and means, but will retain responsibility to assure that said contractors conduct services in a fully compliant manner. Any work requests are first cleared with ESU, who assesses the work area for asbestos and other hazardous materials (e.g. lead and PCBs).
- **Work Controls**
 - Area is surveyed for asbestos prior to demolition/renovation or maintenance
 - Work performed by personnel licensed in the Commonwealth of MA

- Abatement areas are sealed with poly-sheeting, to create an envelope inside the room
- Warning signs are placed at the entrances.
- Abatement workers enter/exit through "containment" areas, so that no asbestos leaves the work area.
- Air is monitored inside and outside the abatement area
- Entire project has engineering controls to ensure a safe working environment inside and outside the containment
- **No ACM are allowed in new construction at UMass.**

Regulations

- Regulated by MA DEP, MA DOS (Division of Occupational Safety), OSHA and EPA (all material containing $\geq 1\%$ asbestos fibers is regulated).
- MA DEP keeps a listing of our jobs – they monitor that all proper procedures are followed.
- If asbestos is in good condition and does not pose a health hazard, no laws or regulations require that it be moved. However, it is required that asbestos is kept in good repair to prevent releases of visible or particulate asbestos emissions.

For More Information

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**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.

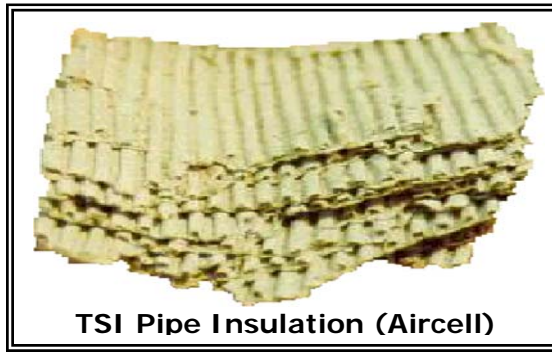
What is Asbestos?

- 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 Asbestos Containing Materials.

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.
- Ensure regulatory compliance with state and federal regulations.
- Ensure that campus personnel involved with asbestos management are adequately trained, qualified, and licensed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Examples of Potential ACM at UMass



Joint Compound:



Plaster



Fume Hoods



Other Examples:

- * Ceiling Tiles
- * HVAC Duct Insulation
- * Cement Pipes
- * Fireproofing Material

Health Effects

Health hazards related to asbestos exposure ONLY occur when asbestos containing materials are damaged or disturbed. Disruption causes microscopic fibers of asbestos to become airborne. These fibers are easily inhaled and may lodge in the lungs. Significant health problems associated with asbestos exposure include lung cancer, asbestosis (where asbestos fibers form scar tissue in the lungs, and restrict oxygen flow to the bloodstream), and mesothelioma (cancer of the abdominal cavity).

Non-smokers with asbestos exposure are less likely to contract lung cancer than smokers with no asbestos exposure.

No minimum concentration of asbestos fibers in the air exists that is considered safe for humans to inhale on a continual basis. The risk of developing adverse health effects is dependent on the amount of asbestos inhaled and the duration of exposure (duration is typically measured in years). Symptoms of lung problems do not appear usually until after 20-30 years of exposure to high levels of asbestos fibers (as might be found in an industrial setting).

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.