



Ministry of
Environment

Management of Waste Asbestos by Home Owners in B.C.

The management of waste asbestos, including transportation and disposal, from residential buildings is within the ministry's jurisdiction, but the decision to remove asbestos from structures and the removal process itself are not.

Special techniques are required to remove asbestos safely. Home owners should call in a removal expert or, at least, not disturb asbestos or attempt removal without following all precautions as set out in the Workers' Compensation Board handbook "Safe Work Practices Handling Asbestos".

The following information has been provided for home owners to assist in the transportation and disposal of asbestos waste if the waste is classified as hazardous waste according to the Hazardous Waste Regulation. "Waste asbestos" must be transported according to the federal *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act* and Regulations, and transported and managed according to the provincial [Environmental Management Act](#), the [Hazardous Waste Regulation](#), as well as any applicable local government landfill bylaws, rules or requirements.

The Hazardous Waste Regulation defines "waste asbestos" as a hazardous waste if the waste contains more than 1%, by weight, of asbestos fibres and the waste is either a powder/dust or friable. Friable waste means a waste that can be easily crumbled or powdered by hand. Friable material containing asbestos may appear:

- fluffy or spongy (usually applied by spraying)
- irregular, soft surface (usually applied by spraying)
- textured, dense, fairly firm surface (usually applied by trowelling)

Asbestos that is tightly bound within a solid matrix so that it is not easily crumbled by hand, is non-friable and is not a hazardous waste. The Regulation is not directed at non-friable materials such as hardboard, brake linings or woven cloth, as long as they are not handled or processed to the point where the materials become friable.

The percentage of asbestos in the waste may be available in the manufacturer's information. If not, the following methods must be used:

(a) Method 600-R-93-116, as amended from time to time, published by the United States Environmental Protection Agency;

(b) NIOSH Method 9002, as amended from time to time, from the NIOSH Manual of Analytical Methods, 4th Edition, published by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, United States.

Asbestos-containing material (asbestos waste) which is a hazardous waste, but is not mixed with any other hazardous wastes, may be transported and disposed of at an authorized non-secure landfill provided each of the following conditions, as identified in Section 40 of the Hazardous Waste Regulation, are met:

- the disposal is approved by the landfill operator and the Regional Environmental Protection Director,
- the asbestos is saturated with water and put into a non-leaking sealed drum, or if it is dry the asbestos is placed within a 6 mil plastic bag which is sealed within a non-reusable drum or a second 6 mil plastic bag, and
- the asbestos is buried immediately with 0.5 m of cover material at the landfill.

If the asbestos waste is determined to be a hazardous waste and is to be transported to a landfill by someone other than the homeowner in a quantity exceeding 5 kg, a manifest must be used and it must be carried by a licenced transporter. Please note that the manifest also serves as the shipping document required by the federal Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulation. As mentioned above, the transporter must also hold a valid licence to transport asbestos under Section 45 of the Hazardous Waste Regulation.

If the waste asbestos is determined to be non-friable, it is not defined as a hazardous waste pursuant to Part 1, Section (1) of the Hazardous Waste Regulation. Accordingly, it does not require the use of a manifest or a licensed transporter when being transported from the generation site to the landfill. Section 10 of the *Environmental Management Act* and Section 46 of the Hazardous Waste Regulation establish the requirement and associated conditions for the use of a manifest for the transportation of hazardous waste.

Section 46(2)(c) of the Hazardous Waste Regulation exempts householders and farmers from the manifest and transport licence requirement when they transport their hazardous waste, including waste asbestos, from their homes or farms directly to a facility operated by a government agency, including a municipality.

Disclaimer

This document does not supersede or replace the *Environmental Management Act* or its regulations. In the case of omissions or discrepancies, the Act and the Hazardous Waste Regulation apply. This document does not list all provisions relating to waste discharges. It is for guidance only.

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