

Hazardous Waste Regulation Guidance

Managing Waste Asbestos by Homeowners

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Who should use this document?

This guidance provides assistance to homeowners on how to manage hazardous waste asbestos from their homes in compliance with the Hazardous Waste Regulation. A “homeowner” is a person who is the owner of a fully detached dwelling who lives in or intends to live in that dwelling as a permanent residence. For strata properties, a homeowner is the owner of a freehold estate in a strata lot with a dwelling (for example, a condominium) who lives in or intends to live in that dwelling as permanent residence.

Special techniques are required to remove asbestos safely. Homeowners 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](#)".

Most of the information below does not apply to commercial, institutional or industrial buildings. A person or company whose business is involved with “houses” does not fit in the category of homeowner even though they own them. For these, refer to the generic [Management of Waste Asbestos webpage](#).

Hazardous Waste Asbestos

Some waste containing asbestos is hazardous waste and must be handled, transported and disposed of in accordance with the Hazardous Waste Regulation. Waste asbestos is hazardous waste if it contains more than 1% asbestos (by weight) and is either a powder/dust or is friable (easily crumbled or powdered by hand) or asbestos fibres are no longer bound in a binder material/matrix. Non-friable asbestos wastes may become friable during handling or transportation; in these cases, the waste will become a hazardous waste.

Friable waste 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 troweling)

Manufacturer's information may provide the percentage of asbestos in the waste. If information from the manufacturer is not available, an accredited laboratory can determine the percentage of asbestos content. You can search for a laboratory in your local phone book.

Waste containing asbestos that is not hazardous waste, is not subject to the Hazardous Waste Regulation. However, the waste still needs to be disposed of properly at an authorized facility (for example, a landfill that is authorized to accept such waste).

The owner of the waste is responsible for determining if the waste qualifies as hazardous waste or not. You may need to hire the services of someone knowledgeable and experienced to make this determination to ensure that the material is properly sampled and characterized.

The remainder of the requirements described in this document apply only for hazardous waste asbestos.

Summary of Requirements:

Homeowners that generate hazardous waste asbestos need to:

1. Characterize and sample the waste
2. Register with the Ministry and get a BC Generator Number (BCG #) if large quantities of waste are generated or stored
3. Package and handle the waste in a manner that protects human health and the environment
4. In some situations, use a licensed transporter and a manifest (a tracking document) to transport the waste off-site
5. Dispose of the waste in a facility that has written authorizations to receive the waste

Details and guidance on each of these aspects are provided below.

For clarity, homeowners are only allowed to passively store hazardous waste asbestos on the site where the waste was generated. Passive storage means to place, package, retrieve and inspect waste; and any other activity such as disposal or treatment is not allowed.

Contractors and qualified environmental professionals can help homeowners in complying and understanding the regulatory requirements.

1. Characterizing and Sampling Waste

Generators of waste, including homeowners, are responsible for characterizing their waste and determining if waste asbestos is hazardous waste.

If information is not available from the manufacturer on the percentage of asbestos content, generators must take representative samples of friable asbestos and send to an [accredited laboratory](#) for analysis. The regulation does not define representative sampling, and it is the responsibility of the generator to properly sample.

Homeowners may hire a contractor or service provider to sample and characterize the waste on their behalf.

Waste characterization reports and analytical data results should be kept on file to show due diligence. Some receiving facilities may require a copy of the data.

2. Registration as a Generator

Homeowners must register and get a BC Generator Number from the Ministry if:

- More than 1000 kg of hazardous waste asbestos is generated over a 30-day period or
- More than 1000 kg is stored at any time

Registering as a generator is free and is a simple process. It requires filling and submitting an online form found [here](#). Some contractors and service providers assist clients with filling out this form. The

registration will be in the homeowner's name and belong to the homeowner for that specific generation location.

For more information on generator registration, see the Ministry's [Register Generator & Facilities webpage](#).

3. Packaging and Handling Requirements

The Hazardous Waste Regulation requires that:

- Hazardous waste asbestos is confined during handling, storage and transportation, using:
 - a. Air dry technique such as
 - i. packaging in a 6-mil plastic bag, sealed and then further packaged within a second 6-mil plastic bag and sealed or,
 - ii. packaging in a 6-mil plastic bag inside a non-reusable drum and then sealed
 - b. Wet containment such as saturation with water and containment in a non-leaking sealed drum or equivalent; or
 - c. Another containment technique which has been director-approved in-writing,

Note: woven bags are not approved for confinement or containment as they are not air tight. If you use woven bags (to hold more weight for example), you must also use any of the approved techniques described above.

4. Manifests and License to Transport

The requirements for transporting hazardous waste applies to more than 5 kg of waste asbestos. There are various exemptions that apply to homeowners under certain conditions. If the conditions are not met, a licence to transport and the use of a manifest form are required when transporting more than 5 kg of waste asbestos in a vehicle on BC roads.

Manifests

A BC manifest is a movement document used for transporting hazardous waste. The purpose is to track the movement of hazardous waste and to ensure that it is being disposed of properly. A manifest is required for transporting hazardous waste asbestos *unless* any of the following circumstances apply:

1. The hazardous waste asbestos is being transported by homeowners themselves, directly to a facility operated by a local government (e.g., municipal landfill) or an agent of a local government. For clarity, this exemption does not include transportation to private disposal facilities or private consolidation or private transfer sites
2. The transportation will be less than 3 km on a public road
3. The total quantity of hazardous waste asbestos is less than 5 kg

Although a manifest may not be required based on the conditions stated above, certain landfills may require the use of a manifest.

If a manifest is required, the homeowner must:

- Complete Part A of the manifest
- Mail Copy 1 of the manifest to the B.C. government (address at the back of the manifest)

- Receive Copy 6 of the manifest from the Receiving site, showing that the authorized receiver has accepted their waste
- Keep Copy 2 and Copy 6 of the manifest on file for at least 2 years of the shipment

Information regarding how to fill out manifests and where to purchase them is available [here](#). Contractors or service providers may assist homeowners with purchasing and filling out the manifest.

License to Transport

A license to transport is required for the transportation of hazardous waste asbestos, unless the following circumstances apply:

- A manifest is not required (see above on manifest) or
- A homeowner is transporting wastes themselves in a quantity less than 1000 kg

If the homeowner is not transporting their own waste in their own vehicle or vehicle leased under their name, they may use the services of a 3rd party transporter. This transporter must have a licence to transport hazardous waste asbestos. Please check if the transporter you are using has a valid licence; a list of transporters with valid licences can be found [here](#).

5. Receiving or Disposal Sites

Hazardous waste asbestos must be sent to an approved and authorized facility, these could be:

- authorized municipal landfill where the owner of the disposal facility has agreed to accept this waste
- privately operated landfills that have an authorization to landfill waste asbestos
- privately operated consolidation or transfer facilities where the operator has an authorization to consolidate and store the waste prior to shipping it for disposal to another authorized disposal site in the province, in another province or abroad.

Homeowners must ensure that the receiving facility is authorized, including intermediate facilities where waste may be stored and/or accumulated prior to shipment for disposal elsewhere. Such intermediate facilities are very common, may store the waste for a short or longer time and may not the required authorizations. It is the homeowner's responsibility to ensure that such facilities have authorization to receive these wastes prior to shipment.

Homeowners can request the receiving facility to check for a copy of their authorization. Alternatively, a list of facilities that have authorizations issued by this Ministry is found [here](#); some data manipulation will be needed.

Additional Responsibilities under Other Jurisdictions

Federal Transport of Dangerous Goods Regulation

The federal [Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act and Regulations](#) which is administered by [Transport Canada](#) also regulate the transportation of waste asbestos.

Local Government Requirements

Local government such as municipalities and regional districts may have additional bylaws or policies that must be met, such as building/renovation permits, landfills requirements, etc. Please check with your specific local government to know if there are other requirements you must meet while generating, handling or disposing waste asbestos.

Workplace Regulations

These may not apply to homeowners unless they obtain the services of other people such as contractors, carriers, laborers, etc. to do some or all the work related to waste asbestos abatement and/or removal.

- Read the BC [Occupational Health and Safety \(OHS\) Regulation](#) which contains legal requirements that must be met by all workplaces under the inspection jurisdiction of [WorkSafe BC](#).
- [Review the Control Strategies for Workplaces](#)

Resources

While the [Safe Work Practices for Handling Asbestos](#) document is used for workplaces, if the homeowner is doing the work themselves, it would be appropriate to follow safe work practices to protect themselves and the environment.

Also, review information on [Asbestos Awareness for Homeowners](#) provided by [WorkSafe BC](#)

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. It is intended for guidance purposes only.