

Your Guide to

Asbestos Disposal

Is asbestos dangerous to my health?

Asbestos poses health risks only when fibres are present in the air that people breathe. If the fibres are enclosed or tightly bound in a compound, there is no significant health risk. In addition, the amount of asbestos in a product does not necessarily indicate its health risk.

The Region of Peel's Community Recycling Centres do not accept products that may contain exposed asbestos.

Homeowners are advised to seek a qualified professional before removing any materials that may contain asbestos.

What precautions should I take to avoid exposure to asbestos?

The best precaution for asbestos identification and removal is to contact a qualified professional who deals with asbestos abatement and removal before starting any renovation or construction work.

If you think you've been exposed to asbestos, contact your physician immediately.

About the Region of Peel

The Region of Peel provides waste management services in the Cities of Brampton and Mississauga and in the Town of Caledon.

For more information call the Region of Peel at **905-791-9499** or in long-distance areas of Caledon call **905-584-2216**, free of charge.

Visit the Region of Peel at www.peelregion.ca/waste

What is asbestos?

Asbestos is a variety of fibrous minerals that are found naturally in rock formations around the world. Asbestos fibres are strong, durable and non-flammable and that's why they were once widely used in construction and friction materials.

How do I dispose of asbestos?

The Region of Peel's Community Recycling Centres do not accept products that may contain exposed asbestos, such as broken or cracked acoustical ceiling tiles.

Homeowners are advised to seek a qualified professional before removing any materials that may contain asbestos.

Qualified professionals who deal with asbestos can be found by using "asbestos abatement/removal" in a local business directory or as an Internet search term.

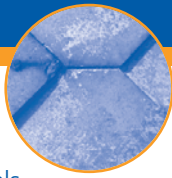
Where is asbestos found?

There has been a dramatic decline in asbestos use since the early 1980s. The use of asbestos insulation in buildings and heating systems has virtually disappeared. Residential use continues to decrease.

While alternative products are being developed to replace asbestos, products sold today containing asbestos are regulated under the *Hazardous Products Act*. Asbestos is now better encapsulated and sealed to reduce the escape of fibres.

Items that may contain asbestos include:

- acoustical ceiling tiles and plaster;
- appliance wiring;
- compounds and cement, such as caulk, putty, roof patching, furnace cement and driveway coating;
- exterior siding;
- pipe and boiler covering;
- shingles and felt for roofing; and
- vinyl floor tiles.



If you're not sure about material that may contain asbestos, check with the product manufacturer or have it analyzed by a qualified professional.

Can I be exposed to asbestos?

People can put themselves at risk — often without realizing it — if they are not taking the proper precautions when repairing or renovating areas that disturb materials containing asbestos. Examples include:

- breaking apart acoustical ceiling tiles containing asbestos
- sanding or scraping vinyl asbestos floor tiles
- sanding plaster containing asbestos, or sanding or disturbing acoustical plaster that gives ceilings and walls a soft, textured look
- sanding or scraping older water-based asbestos coatings such as roofing compounds, spackling, sealants, paint, putty, caulking or drywall
- removing deteriorating roofing shingles and siding containing asbestos, or tampering with roofing felt that contains asbestos
- ripping away old asbestos insulation from around a hot water tank



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