

DON'T MESS WITH



ASBESTOS

Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District

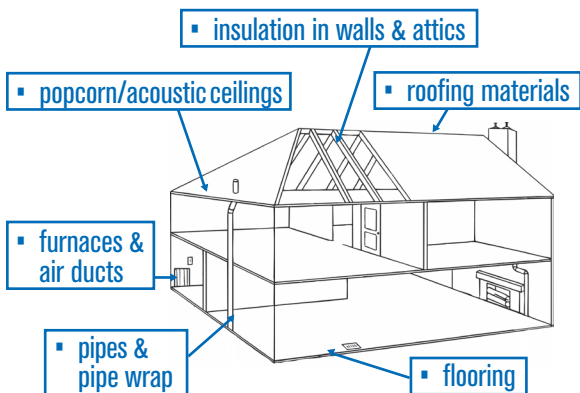
In Your Home

What is asbestos? When is it dangerous?

Asbestos is a health hazard for you and your family. It is a mineral fiber that has been used in many building materials. There is no known safe level of exposure to asbestos. All asbestos should be avoided. If asbestos is left undisturbed, it is not likely to harm you – **so don't mess with it!** When asbestos fibers are inhaled, they can be extremely dangerous. Inhaled asbestos fibers can remain in the lungs for a long time. It can take 15-40 years after exposure to asbestos for cancer or respiratory diseases to develop.

Where is asbestos found? Know what to look for.

Asbestos cannot be detected by sight. Materials must be tested for asbestos by a lab. Certified labs and consultants can be found in telephone directories under "asbestos consulting & testing." Asbestos has been added to a variety of products to strengthen them, provide insulation and add fire resistance. You may find many of these products still in use. Some common products where asbestos was used include:



WHEN IN DOUBT, CHECK IT OUT.

Find out if your home/apartment/condo has asbestos.

When buying or renting a home, particularly if it was built before 1980, ask your landlord, seller or real estate agent whether the structure has been inspected for asbestos.

Check before you wreck.

If remodeling your home or if work is being done to your building, find out if the building materials contain asbestos. If you have a question about asbestos waste management, contact your local County Department of Environmental Health. Owners of apartments or condominiums are required to notify the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District in writing when working on a building that contains a specified amount of asbestos. The MBUAPCD can be reached at 831-647-9411.

If you have to remove asbestos, do it right and use a certified asbestos contractor.

Before you spend time or money renovating, have a licensed asbestos expert test the areas you will be remodeling. Asbestos contractors are required to be licensed by the California State Licensing Board and certified by the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Certified asbestos removal companies can be found at



<http://www.dir.ca.gov/Databases/doshacru/acrusearch.html> or www.cslb.ca.gov/consumers.

You may be breaking the law if you do not dispose of asbestos properly.

Asbestos can be considered a hazardous waste, which must be disposed of properly. Hazardous waste law penalties can be up to \$25,000 per day, per violation.

For more information on asbestos, visit www.mbuapcd.org or call the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District at 831-647-9411.