

# ASBESTOS: HIDDEN HAZARDS

## PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS FROM THIS HIDDEN HAZARD

We are serious about protecting our employees and the public from asbestos exposure. Health concerns and Work Safe BC requirements have spurred us to improve upon the way our facilities handle both confirmed and suspect asbestos waste. The CVRD is working on developing a more comprehensive asbestos management plan that will provide residents with more options for asbestos waste disposal. Until this plan is finalized, however, ***CVRD Recycling Drop-off Depots do not accept any type of asbestos waste for disposal.*** Those who fail to observe that asbestos-containing material is strictly prohibited at all CVRD Recycling Drop-off Depots will be responsible for clean-up costs as per Bylaw 2108. Repeat offenders may be banned from waste disposal services at the CVRD.

### **What is asbestos and why should I be concerned?**

Asbestos is a naturally occurring fibre that was historically used in common building materials due to its strength, insulating properties, and resistance to heat, fire and chemicals. Asbestos fibres are very fine, and once airborne, can stay suspended for hours or even days. Inhaling airborne asbestos is extremely dangerous. Asbestos is ***a known human carcinogen*** (cancer-causing agent) and ***exposure can result in serious chronic health problems, such as lung cancer, asbestosis, and mesothelioma.*** Symptoms of these diseases, however, may not show up for quite some time after exposure (10-40 years). Use extreme caution when dealing with this material in order to avoid future health issues.

### **What is the CVRD's procedure regarding asbestos disposal?**

***CVRD Recycling Drop-off Depots do not accept any type of asbestos waste for disposal.*** All commercial and residential loads brought to CVRD Recycling Drop-off Depots will be carefully inspected for asbestos-containing materials. If CVRD staff suspect that a load contains asbestos, that material will be considered hazardous in order to avoid exposure to employees and members of the public. This suspect material will need to be properly double-bagged and taken to an approved asbestos disposal facility (see list below). If proper documentation from asbestos sample testing can be provided confirming the absence of asbestos in the material in question, the material will be accepted.

***Gypsum waste*** produced from renovations and demolitions of buildings constructed prior to 1990 has been identified by Work Safe BC as suspect asbestos-containing material. CVRD facilities only accept clean cuts of unpainted drywall for recycling. Please take all demolition drywall to an asbestos disposal facility.

***Vermiculite waste*** is not accepted at CVRD as it is considered to be asbestos-containing material. Please take this waste to an asbestos disposal facility.

## Disposal Facilities

Asbestos containing material that is properly prepared for disposal (i.e. double bagged in 6 mil polyethylene bags, properly tied, and labeled) can be taken to the following facilities:

### **Coast Environmental Ltd.**

5271 Boal Rd  
Duncan, BC  
(250) 748-4611

*\*Note: Coast Environmental Ltd.'s Chemainus location does not accept asbestos waste.*

### **Hartland Landfill**

#1 Hartland Avenue  
Victoria, BC  
(250)360-3030

*\*Note: Asbestos waste is accepted by appointment only.*

### **Regional District of Nanaimo Landfill**

1105 Cedar Road  
Nanaimo, BC  
(250) 722-2044

*\*Note: Asbestos waste is accepted by appointment only.*

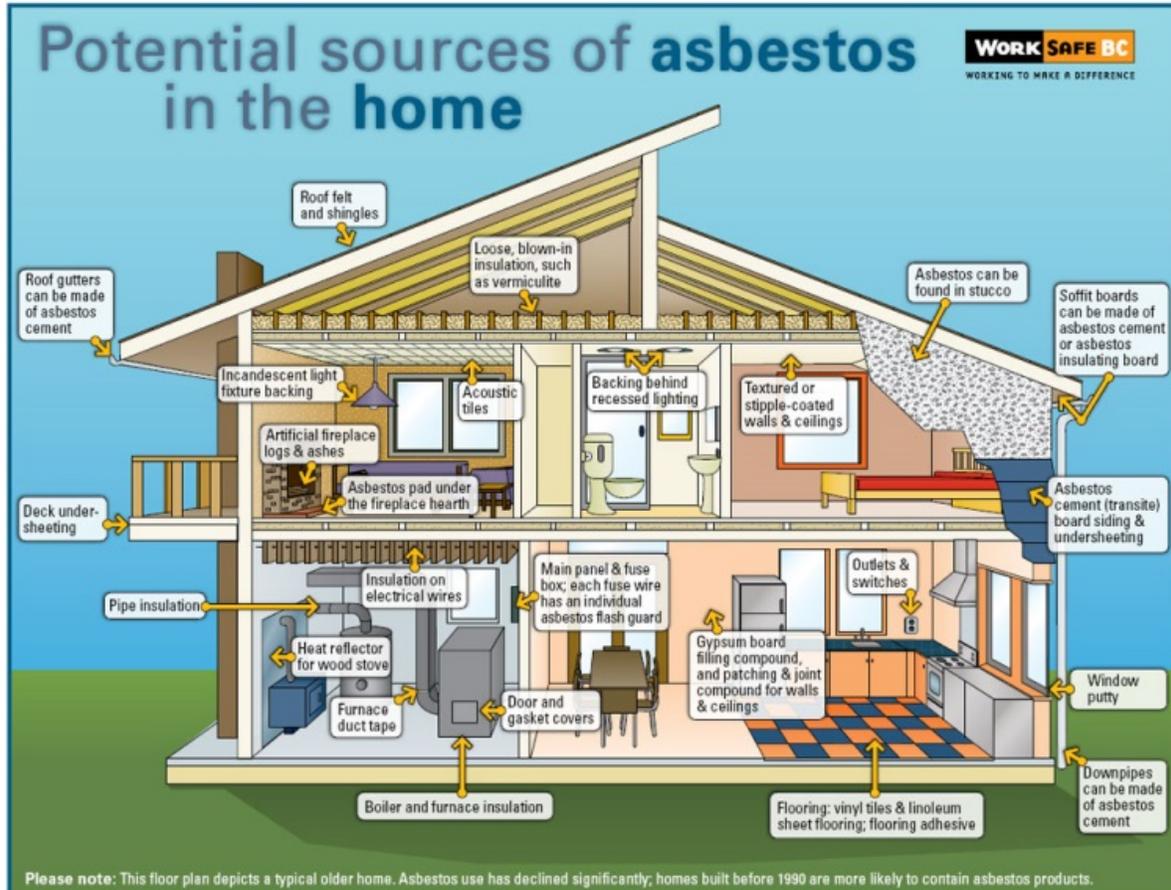
## Where is asbestos found?

Asbestos is found in thousands of products, including many common construction materials. These materials are often in structures built prior to 1990, but may be present in newer buildings as well. Asbestos is commonly mixed with other materials, making it difficult to know if it is present. All pre-1990 building materials should therefore be considered suspect and should be handled and disposed of similar to materials that have been confirmed to contain asbestos.

Asbestos is regularly found in the following building materials, but may be present in other materials not included in this list.

- Vermiculite insulation -- and other types of heating and cooling system products
- Flooring products -- including vinyl and linoleum tiles and adhesives
- Roofing materials
- Stucco
- Drywall taping compound
- Wallboard and sheetrock
- Textured decorative coatings -- walls and ceilings
- Asbestos cement board siding and under sheeting
- Soffit boards
- Deck under sheeting
- Insulating surrounds of woodstoves and furnaces

The image below from Work Safe BC shows some potential sources of asbestos in the home. Asbestos fibres become air borne when disturbed, usually during demolitions or renovations, so the mere presence of asbestos in a building does not necessarily mean you are at risk. It is beneficial, however, to be aware of where asbestos can be found even if you are not currently undertaking a construction project.



### How do I know if asbestos is present? What if I am unsure?

Always ensure you are taking all necessary safety precautions when dealing with asbestos. If your home was built prior to 1990, you should approach any renovation with caution and take appropriate measures to ensure you do not unknowingly disturb asbestos containing materials. If you are unsure whether asbestos is present, the safest option is to assume asbestos is present, and treat the materials as hazardous waste.

Alternatively, you can hire a qualified professional to perform asbestos sample testing which will confirm the presence or absence of asbestos in suspect materials. This type of testing will provide you with written documentation of the results. Please refer to [Work Safe BC's FAQ document](#) for more information about asbestos testing.

## I am planning a renovation of a pre-1990 home. What should I do?

1. Test for asbestos:
  - Have your home tested for asbestos before you begin any work. To find out more about testing, please refer to [Work Safe BC's FAQ document](#).
  - \*Note: It is the responsibility of the homeowner to check the qualifications of hired asbestos consultants and abatement contractors *prior* to commencement of any asbestos removal.
2. Have all identified asbestos containing materials removed by a qualified asbestos removal professional. **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO REMOVE THESE MATERIALS YOURSELF.**
3. Have asbestos-containing materials disposed at an approved facility to avoid exposure to yourself and others (see list of approved local facilities above).

Whether you suspect asbestos or have confirmed it is present, it is recommended that you call a removal expert. Never attempt to remove asbestos-containing material yourself.

## How is asbestos disposed of?

Asbestos removal professionals have appropriate training and safety equipment that allows them to handle asbestos while avoiding exposure. Asbestos-containing material must be double bagged in 6-mil polyethylene asbestos bags, and properly labeled before they can be taken to an asbestos disposal facility. Never attempt to remove asbestos materials yourself. ***Asbestos exposure puts yourself and others at risk.***

**Want to learn more about asbestos? Visit Worksafe BC's website at**

**[www.hiddenkiller.ca](http://www.hiddenkiller.ca)**