For further information on asbestos call:

SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN
AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
(work practice and notification requirements)
(916) 874-4800

CAL OSHA
(worker safety)
complaint: (916) 263-2800
consultation: (800) 963-9424
consultant registration: (916) 574-2993

CONTRACTORS’ STATE LICENSE BOARD
(contractor licensing issues)
investigation/complaints: (916) 255-4450

Cal/EPA
(transport and packaging of hazardous asbestos)
(916) 324-1807

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION OF SACRAMENTO-EMIGRANT TRAILS
(916) 444-5864

Use this brochure as a guide, but refer to Rule 902 for specific details.

SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN
AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
777 - 12th Street, 3rd Floor
Sacramento, California 95814-1908
(916) 874-4800
Web site: www.airquality.org

What is the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (AQMD)?

The AQMD regulates stationary and mobile sources of air pollution in Sacramento County. The AQMD regulates asbestos renovation/demolition projects as well as emissions from burning, incineration, smoke, gasoline, paint, evaporative compounds and internal combustion engines.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has designated the Sacramento region a severe ground-level ozone non-attainment area. This non-attainment area includes all of Sacramento County and parts of El Dorado, Placer, Solano, Sutter and Yolo counties. Our air quality consistently fails to meet state and federal health standards. The AQMD is charged with developing and implementing strategies to improve air quality at a time when rapid population growth threatens to further impact human health and our environment.

The AQMD modified its asbestos regulation (Rule 902) on October 1, 1998. Several of the critical changes are discussed in this brochure.

What is Regulated Asbestos-Containing Material (RACM)?

RACM contains friable asbestos in quantities greater than 1% by visual area estimation. Friable means that the material can be crumbled, pulverized, or reduced to powder by hand pressure when dry. Some common examples of RACM are spray acoustic ceilings, duct wrap, paper backing of linoleum, wallboard, and thermal insulation on pipes and boilers. Use of asbestos in the manufacturing of these products was banned in 1978, however some products remained on the shelf and were used in the construction of buildings and homes for years thereafter.

Non-friable asbestos-containing material is typically bound up with cement, vinyl, asphalt or some other type of hardening binder. Some examples of non-friable asbestos building products are transite (cement) siding, vinyl asbestos floor tiles and asphalt roofing shingles. This material may become friable if it is pulverized during renovation (remodel, repair) or demolition activity. Non-friable materials are not regulated. Some non-friable asbestos materials are still manufactured.

IMPORTANT

Improper removal/disposal of regulated asbestos-containing material can result in penalties up to $25,000 a day. Please read this brochure carefully.
When is asbestos considered dangerous?

If RACM is disturbed, it may release airborne fibers that can be inhaled and pose a health threat. If the RACM is in good general condition and is left undisturbed, it should not pose a health threat and is not required to be removed.

Does Rule 902 apply to my residential renovation or demolition?

Rule 902 applies if:
- The buildings being demolished are to be replaced by commercial properties.
- The project is an eminent domain or public works project.
- The project has residential facilities with five (5) or more units.

Under the provisions of Rule 902, most renovation and demolition projects of residences with four (4) or less units are exempt from the Rule.

How do I know if my commercial building contains asbestos?

Many building materials can contain RACM. If you are going to renovate or demolish a building, you must hire a certified asbestos consultant, licensed by CAL OSHA, to perform the asbestos survey. Such consultants may be found in the yellow pages under “Asbestos Consultant.” Limited exceptions to this requirement may be allowed for larger facilities with EPA trained personnel on staff.

All commercial demolitions and renovations require an asbestos survey, with three exceptions:
- The project is exempt. (See Rule 902 for details.)
- All suspect materials are assumed to be RACM.
- The amount of suspect materials is less than 160 square feet or 260 linear feet. (An example of suspect material less than 160 square feet is acoustic ceiling material; An example of a 260 linear feet suspect material would be thermal insulation normally found on pipes or pipe wraps.)

Commercial renovation projects larger in size than 160 square feet or 260 linear feet are subject to the requirements of Rule 902.

Rule 902 applies to all commercial demolitions. However, those with smaller than the above amounts are subject only to the notification section of Rule 902.

What should I do if test results indicate asbestos is present?

If the material identified as RACM is in good condition, the AQMD recommends leaving it alone. If the RACM will be disturbed in the process of renovation or demolition, a licensed asbestos abatement contractor must be hired to properly remove the material in a safe and legal manner.

Who may remove asbestos-containing material from commercial buildings?

CAL OSHA and the Contractors' State License Board require using a licensed asbestos removal contractor who knows the legal requirements and has the trained staff and equipment to do the job properly for all asbestos removal. Such contractors are in the yellow pages under “Asbestos.” The Contractors’ State License Board has prepared a booklet titled “What You Should Know Before You Hire a Contractor.” You should not attempt to remove RACM yourself.

When selling a building, what must I do about any asbestos contained in the building?

If an asbestos survey was performed and it indicated that asbestos is present, or you otherwise have knowledge that asbestos exists in the structure, this fact must be disclosed to the buyer in the real estate transfer disclosure statement.

If I have non-friable waste, where can I dispose of it?

Non-friable asbestos can be disposed of in any landfill willing to accept it. Currently, there are several landfills in Sacramento County that will accept non-friable asbestos. Rule 902 applies only to friable asbestos.