

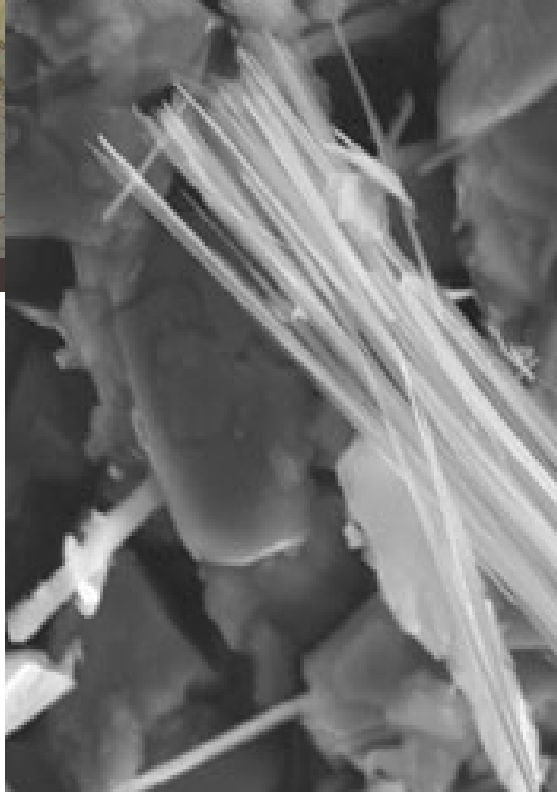
Health Effects

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral fiber. It is fire resistant, strong and generally resistant to heat, electricity and chemical attacks. Therefore, asbestos has and continues to be used in thousands of different materials, including building products, fabrics and brake pads.

Because of the microscopic nature of asbestos fibers, once airborne they can be easily inhaled leading to disease.

There are three major health risks associated with asbestos exposure: asbestosis, mesothelioma, and lung cancer.

Studies have also indicated cancers of the mouth, throat, digestive tract and other organs may be caused by asbestos. There is currently no known safe level of asbestos exposure.



**Missouri
Department of
Natural Resources**

Air Pollution Control Program
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**Missouri Department
of Natural Resources**
Air Pollution Control Program



Did You Know?

Asbestos fibers are very small and can only be positively identified with a special type of microscope.

All asbestos containing waste, whether from a regulated or unregulated project must be disposed of at a permitted solid waste disposal facility that will accept the material.

Asbestos containing materials should never be burned for disposal as this allows for dangerous asbestos fibers to be emitted into the air; and is in violation of the department's open burning restrictions.

Asbestos abatement contractors are trained in the proper procedures for safely removing and disposing of asbestos containing material and may only employ workers who are trained and certified by the department on their projects.

Removal Requirements

The Department of Natural Resources regulates asbestos inspections, project notifications, demolition notifications and emission-control procedures for asbestos removal and disposal.

The department must be notified about all projects in regulated buildings where greater than 160 square feet, 260 linear feet, or 35 cubic feet of regulated asbestos containing materials will be removed and for all demolition projects regardless of whether asbestos is present or not.

Enforcement of the asbestos regulations is also delegated to certain local agencies in the state. These local agencies include the health departments in Kansas City, St. Louis City, St. Louis County and Springfield-Greene County. If a project is to occur in one of these jurisdictions, you should check with that local agency for additional requirements.

Do's and Don'ts

Do contact a Missouri-certified asbestos inspector if you intend to demolish or renovate building material that may contain asbestos. If removal or major repairs are needed people trained and qualified in handling asbestos should be contacted.

Do minimize activity in any areas containing damaged material that may contain asbestos and avoid damaging it further.

Do contact the department if you have questions about asbestos regulations for your project.

Don't dust, sweep or vacuum debris containing asbestos. If you cannot avoid walking through asbestos containing areas, clean it with a wet mop to minimize dust.

Don't saw, sand, scrape or drill holes in asbestos containing materials. Don't sand or try to level asbestos flooring or its backing.