

Asbestos Inspections

Asbestos inspections for residential and commercial properties have become a common, and sometimes regulated, practice to safeguard the health and well being of occupants. A small price to pay for protection from the invisible threat of airborne asbestos fibers.

According to the EPA, the houses most at risk for containing significant amounts of asbestos are those built between 1930 and 1950. However materials such as textured paints and patching compounds used on walls and ceilings continued to be manufactured with asbestos until 1977. Contrary to public belief asbestos has not been totally banned from all products. It is still being used in the manufacture of some products even today! The list of materials containing asbestos both past and present, is extensive and can range from floor tiles to ironing board covers.

According to the United States Department of Labor's worker protection branch (OSHA), there are an estimated 1.3 million workers in the United States that also face significant exposure to asbestos at the workplace. There is a scientifically proven risk of lung cancer, mesothelioma and asbestosis from prolonged exposure to asbestos fibers.

*Properly Performed
Asbestos Investigations
Protect People & Investments*



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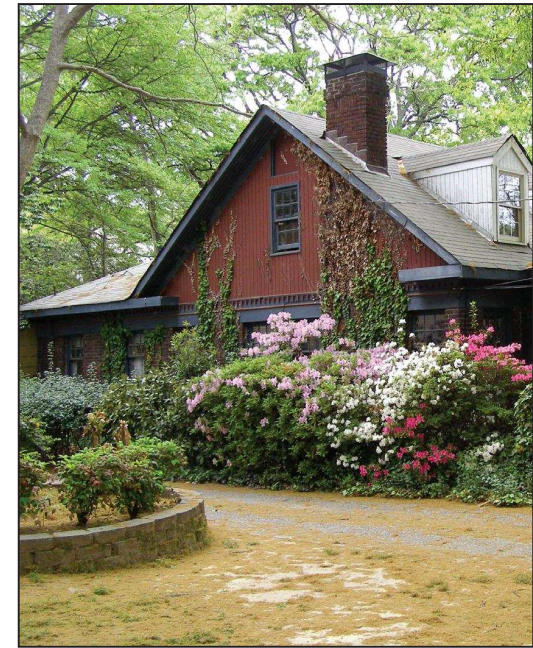
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Asbestos



Asbestos is a natural mineral fiber that is mined from the ground. Over the years asbestos was mined and used in many products that were utilized in and around our homes and buildings to provide insulation, strength and

fire resistance to these items. There are six regulated types of asbestos. The best way of locating and identifying them is through the use of specialized microscopes.

Asbestos can be traced back as far as the burial clothes of ancient Egyptians. The use of asbestos has been restricted (but not completely banned!) in the U.S. for many years. Despite this, there are millions of homes and buildings with asbestos containing materials.

In some circumstances the asbestos can lay dormant for many years posing no significant health danger. It is when the asbestos becomes airborne that it poses the real threat. This can happen when the material is disturbed through construction, renovation, or through slow decay and weathering.



Affordable testing procedures are available by qualified professionals and accredited laboratories to determine if products contain asbestos.

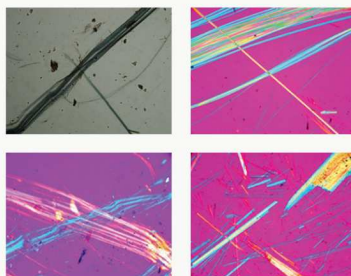
Hiring an Asbestos Inspector

A qualified asbestos inspector should be able to provide references and qualifications to the building owner or occupants. In some areas an accreditation of asbestos professionals may be required by state or local laws.

- ◆ During an asbestos inspection a complete visual inspection and collection of samples for laboratory analyses should occur.
- ◆ If asbestos is discovered, a written evaluation describing the locations, extent of contamination and recommendations for corrective actions should be given.

Depending on what the investigators discover they may recommend the building owner hire an asbestos abatement contractor to remove or seal any asbestos that poses a threat to occupant health.

It is important when hiring a professional to conduct the inspection that only experienced and qualified professionals perform this important task. Be sure to also verify that any samples that are taken are to be analyzed by an accredited independent laboratory such as LA Testing.



Resources

American Indoor Air Quality Council
www.iaqcouncil.org

California Indoor Air Quality Program www.cal-iaq.org

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/asbestos/

EMSL Analytical, Inc. www.emsl.com

Indoor Air Quality Association www.iaqa.org

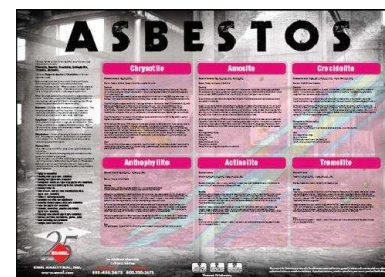
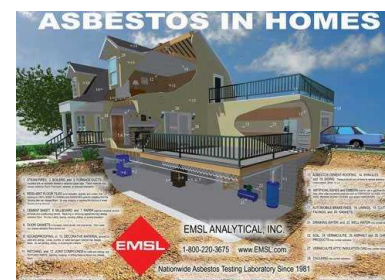
LA Testing www.LATesting.com

National Safety Council
www.nsc.org/ehc/indoor/asbestos.htm

U.S. Department of Labor
www.osha.gov/SLTC/asbestos/

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
www.epa.gov/asbestos/pubs/ashome.html

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