

Asbestos Awareness Information

What is Asbestos?

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral fiber widely used in the construction and other industries. Most asbestos is immobilized in binding materials which do not release asbestos fibers into the air. Asbestos may be present in a building without endangering the health of building occupants.

Some building materials contain asbestos which will release fibers if disturbed. This is known as friable asbestos, which is estimated to be present in about 700,000 commercial and public buildings in the U.S.

What is the University Doing?

The University has procedures in place to properly inspect, maintain, and clean asbestos-containing materials to ensure the health and safety of students, staff, and visitors.

The Office of Environmental Health and Safety and Facilities Management Department have staff trained and certified to work with asbestos and to remove it safely.

If damage to an asbestos-containing material is noted, an inspection by certified staff will be made.

What Can I Do?

Remember that asbestos-containing materials have been used in most building and homes constructed during the last 50 years.

Remember that release of asbestos fibers is a hazard that is preventable.

Where Do I Report Problems?

**Call your supervisor. Report problems to Environmental Health and Safety at 650-3064
Call the Facilities Management Work Control Center at 650-3420
After business hours, call University Police Dispatcher at 650-3555**

Environmental Health and Safety 650-3064 <http://www.wvu.edu/depts/ehs/> ehs@wvu.edu



Risk Management
Workers' Compensation
Chemical and Biological Materials Management
Hazardous Building Materials Management

Occupational Safety
Fire Safety
Ergonomics
Safety Training

Environmental Management
Industrial Hygiene
Emergency Planning
Chemical Spill Response
Indoor Air Quality