

# FACT SHEET

## Asbestos in Building Materials

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Asbestos is a general name for a group of naturally-occurring minerals composed of small fibers. It is common in many building materials. Various diseases have been associated with *industrial* exposure to asbestos fibers, and the extensive use of asbestos in building materials has raised some concern about exposure in non-industrial settings. The presence of asbestos in a building does not mean that the health of building occupants is endangered. As long as asbestos-containing materials remain in good condition and are not disturbed or damaged, exposure is unlikely. On the other hand, damaged, deteriorated, or disturbed asbestos-containing materials can lead to fiber release (exposure), and unauthorized removal or disturbance of asbestos materials is not only potentially unhealthy but also illegal. **Only trained, certified workers should handle or remove asbestos-containing materials.** Unauthorized or uncontrolled disturbance of asbestos materials is a violation of UK policy and can lead to civil or criminal liability under EPA or OSHA regulations.

### Types of Asbestos Building Materials

The following are some types of materials that may contain asbestos:

- floor tile
- boiler insulation
- ceiling tiles
- fireproofing
- linoleum
- tank insulation
- adhesives
- acoustical finishes
- floor tile mastic
- gaskets
- fume hood liners
- plaster
- pipe insulation
- HVAC duct wrap
- lab countertops
- roofing
- pipe fittings
- fire doors
- chalkboard glue
- siding shingles

**Building materials that may contain asbestos must be treated as if they do until laboratory testing proves that they do not contain asbestos.** If you have any questions about whether a material contains asbestos, ask your supervisor/resident advisor/house corporation or call UK's Environmental Management Department at (859) 257-3285.

### Asbestos Guidelines

- **Do not** damage, disturb, or remove asbestos-containing materials. Only trained and certified workers should handle or remove asbestos-containing materials.
  - **Promptly report** potential asbestos debris or damaged asbestos materials (e.g., damaged pipe insulation and loose/missing floor tiles) that you see to your supervisor/resident advisor/house corporation. The materials may already have been tested or, if not, will be sampled and tested. When in doubt, **ask**.
  - If you see improper cleaning or maintenance activities being done on suspect materials, see that they are stopped **and** contact your supervisor/resident advisor/house corporation.
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