



Asbestos Disposal

This information sheet outlines the acceptable disposal options for waste asbestos and asbestos-containing products. Proper handling and disposal of waste asbestos in solid waste facilities will minimize the risk to human health and safety, and the environment.

Asbestos is a naturally occurring fibrous mineral which was once used in commercial products as insulation, for fire resistance, as a strengthening agent, and more. If asbestos fibres are enclosed or tightly bound in a product that has not been disturbed (for example, intact siding or floor tiles containing asbestos), there are no significant health risks. Health risks arise only when asbestos-containing products are damaged or disturbed by repair, remodelling or demolition activities; in those cases microscopic fibres can become airborne and be inhaled.

Before you begin any asbestos removal or control project, you should arrange for a pre-project meeting with the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board to ensure your project plan complies with Occupational Health and Safety legislation.

The *Solid Waste Regulations* applies to waste products that contain bound asbestos. The *Special Waste Regulations* applies to unbound asbestos. All requirements of the Yukon *Occupational Health and Safety Regulations* must be followed when working with asbestos-containing products, whether the asbestos is bound or unbound.

Bound Asbestos

Asbestos fixed into man-made products (e.g. floor tiles) is a solid waste, and must be properly disposed at a permitted solid waste disposal facility or commercial dump (as detailed below).

Unbound Asbestos

Asbestos in its natural (fibrous) form is a special waste when it is no longer being used for its original purpose. Unbound asbestos is regulated under the Yukon *Occupational Health and Safety Regulations*, so a special waste permit is not required for its handling or disposal. Unbound asbestos must be contained in bags or put into drums that are then saturated with water before being sealed prior to burial at a permitted solid waste disposal facility or commercial dump.

Disposal Options

Waste asbestos, whether bound or unbound, must be buried at a permitted solid waste disposal facility (SWDF) or commercial dump. It is up to each SWDF to determine if it will accept waste that contains asbestos. You should confirm with a solid waste disposal facility operator that they will accept your waste asbestos prior to arriving at the SWDF.

Burial Procedure

Asbestos, whether bound or unbound, must be deposited in a segregated area of the SWDF. The SWDF operator must mark the segregated area with permanent signs identifying it as an asbestos waste disposal area, for example:

ASBESTOS WASTE BURIAL SITE
DO NOT DISTURB
Inhalation of asbestos fibres can cause lung disease and cancer

Site operators should avoid working in the asbestos disposal area. Waste asbestos must be buried immediately when taken to a solid waste management facility. Upon final closure of the asbestos disposal area, the SWF operator should ensure that all parts of the burial pit are covered with at least 1m of compacted soil or other comparable cover material, and that the signs identifying the disposal site remain in place. All additional cell closure requirements must be followed, as detailed under the Cell/Facility Closure fact sheet.

Other Topics

Info sheets are also available on the following topics:

- *Special Waste Regulations:*
www.gov.yk.ca/legislation/regs/oic1995_047.pdf
- *Solid Waste Regulations:*
www.gov.yk.ca/legislation/regs/oic2000_011.pdf
- *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation (s. 34-41):*
www.wcb.yk.ca/Media/documents/Occupational_Health_Regs.pdf
- *Occupational Health and Safety Act (ss.3, 7, 9):*
www.wcb.yk.ca/Media/documents/CompensatonActFINAL2008.pdf
- Health Risks of Asbestos (Health Canada Fact Sheet):
www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hl-vs/iyh-vsv/environ/asbestos-amiante-eng.php

For more information on asbestos, please contact:

Environmental Programs Branch
Environment Yukon (V-8)
Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon
Y1A 2C6

Phone: (867) 667-5683
Toll Free: 1-800-661-0408 X5683
Fax: (867) 393-6205
email: envprot@gov.yk.ca

Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board
401 Strickland Street
Whitehorse, Yukon
Y1A 5N8

Phone: (867) 667-5450
Toll Free: 1-800-661-0443
Fax: (867) 393-6279
email: worksafe@gov.yk.ca

Copies of Yukon regulations may be viewed online at <http://www.environmentyukon.gov.yk.ca/monitoringenvironment/> or at any Yukon Public Library, territorial agent, territorial representative or regional services office. You may purchase copies at the Inquiry Centre, Yukon Government Administration Building, 2071-2nd Avenue in Whitehorse, or by mail from the Subscriptions Clerk, Yukon Government Queen's Printer, Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 2C6 (phone (867) 667-5783 or toll free 1-800-661-0408 extension 5783).

