

# Workplace Safety and Health Regulations for Asbestos

## Risks to Health from Asbestos Containing Material (ACM)

Asbestos presents a potential lung disease hazard when released into the air. Persons exposed to asbestos at work have developed several types of life-threatening diseases, including asbestosis, lung cancer and mesothelioma.

### Where is ACM Found?

ACM has been used in thousands of building materials in structures, homes and buildings built or renovated **prior to 1990**, and is still used today in some applications although most applications have now been banned in Canada (2018). Figure 1 (over) contains examples of commonly found ACM.

## Legal Requirements for ACM

Manitoba's Workplace Safety and Health Regulation (the Regulation) has requirements for asbestos management and abatement. Parts 37, 33, 36, 6 and 35 of the Regulation describe what is required prior to, during and after renovation, demolition or alteration of structures with ACM. Full regulatory requirements can be found at: <https://www.manitoba.ca/labour/safety/wshl.html>

As per the Regulation, if ACM is suspected of being present, prior to any work being done, the property owner, contractor or employer must ensure:

- The work area is inspected and an asbestos inventory prepared by a person competent in identifying ACM. The inventory identifies the locations, types and conditions of all ACM in the workplace (Part 37.2).
- Either a competent person (a person possessing the knowledge, experience and training needed to perform a specific duty) collects **representative** bulk samples of suspected ACM for analysis by an accredited laboratory or, **all material suspected of containing asbestos are treated as ACM unless the material is found to be asbestos-free** (Part 37.1(2)).
- Workplace Safety and Health is notified at least 5 days before starting work that may release ACM into the air. (Part 37.8(2)). You can notify Workplace Safety and Health online at: <https://forms.gov.mb.ca/notice-of-asbestos-work/>
- Asbestos that will be disturbed in the work area is removed prior to demolition or alteration work beginning (Part 33.4). When ACM cannot be fully assessed and removed, such as after an **emergency demolition** activity as a result of **FIRE LOSS**, the work requires control measures implemented for ACM. Control measures include wet methods to prevent airborne ACM release during handling, transport and disposal of all potentially contaminated debris as ACM.
- An asbestos control plan is in place for handling and disposing of ACM in a manner that will prevent the release of asbestos fibres into the atmosphere (Part 37.5).
  - Control measures should be developed in accordance with the level of risk (see over for information regarding levels of risk for work involving ACM).
- Workers are trained in the safe work procedures for ACM (Part 36.3).
  - Worker and supervisor training should be conducted by a competent person having demonstrated knowledge and experience of working with asbestos.
  - Workers are provided with appropriate personal protective equipment as determined by the scope of work, and be properly fitted for respirators if, and when, they are required (Part 6.15(1)).

**Failure to comply with the above regulatory requirements may result in work stoppages, fines or prosecution.**

### Workplace Safety and Health:

Winnipeg: (204) 957-SAFE (7233)

Toll-Free: 1-855-957-SAFE (7233)

[www.manitoba.ca/labour/safety](http://www.manitoba.ca/labour/safety)



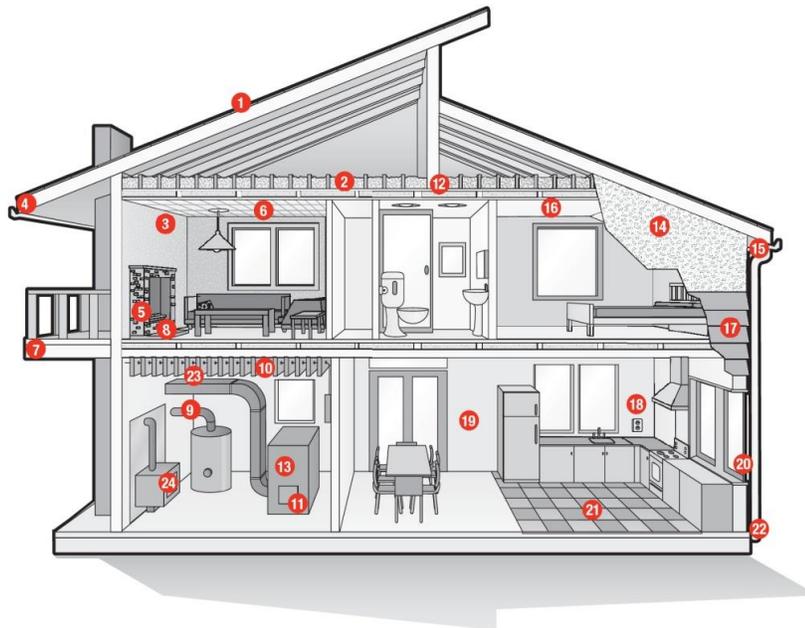
## Levels of Risk When Working with Asbestos

Type 1 Low risk: non-friable materials where the release of asbestos fibres is not expected to occur when work is carried out using recommended safe work procedures for non-friable materials.

Type 2 Moderate risk: friable (can be crushed, crumbled or powered with hand pressure) materials where the release of asbestos fibres is expected and the work is to be carried out in less than 3 hours.

Type 3 High risk: friable materials where the release of asbestos fibres is expected.

**Figure 1 – Examples of commonly found ACM**



- |   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| 1 Roof felt and shingles                          | 9 Pipe insulation   | 15 Soffit boards can be made of asbestos cement or asbestos insulating board             | 20 Window putty   |
| 2 Loose, blown-in insulation, such as vermiculite | 10 Main panel and fuse box; each fuse wire has an individual asbestos flash guard | 16 Textured or stipple-coated walls and ceilings   | 21 Flooring: vinyl tiles and linoleum sheet flooring; flooring adhesive |
| 3 Incandescent light fixture backing              | 11 Door and gasket covers   | 17 Asbestos cement (transite) board siding and undersheeting                             | 22 Downpipes can be made of asbestos cement                             |
| 4 Roof gutters can be made of asbestos cement     | 12 Backing behind recessed lighting   | 18 Outlets and switches  | 23 Insulation on electrical wires                                       |
| 5 Artificial fireplace logs and ashes             | 13 Boiler and furnace insulation  | 19 Gypsum board filling compound, and patching and joint compound for walls and ceilings | 24 Heat reflector for wood stove  |
| 6 Acoustic tiles                                  | 14 Asbestos can be found in stucco  |  |   |
| 7 Deck under-sheeting                             |   |  |   |
| 8 Asbestos pad under the fireplace hearth         |   |  |   |

**WORK SAFE BC**

Additional resources on health risks associated with ACM can be found at [www.safemanitoba.com](http://www.safemanitoba.com). If you have further questions about legislative requirements or would like to report unsafe work call 1-855-957-SAFE and select "Option 1" to speak to a Safety and Health Officer.

**Available in alternate formats upon request.**