

# 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. 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 the demolition or alteration of ACM. Full regulatory requirements can be found at: [www.manitoba.ca/labour/safety/wshl](http://www.manitoba.ca/labour/safety/wshl)

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 the ACM (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 is 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: [www.manitoba.ca/labour/safety/asbestos](http://www.manitoba.ca/labour/safety/asbestos).
- Asbestos that will be disturbed in the work area is removed prior to demolition or alteration work beginning (Part 33.4).
- 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)



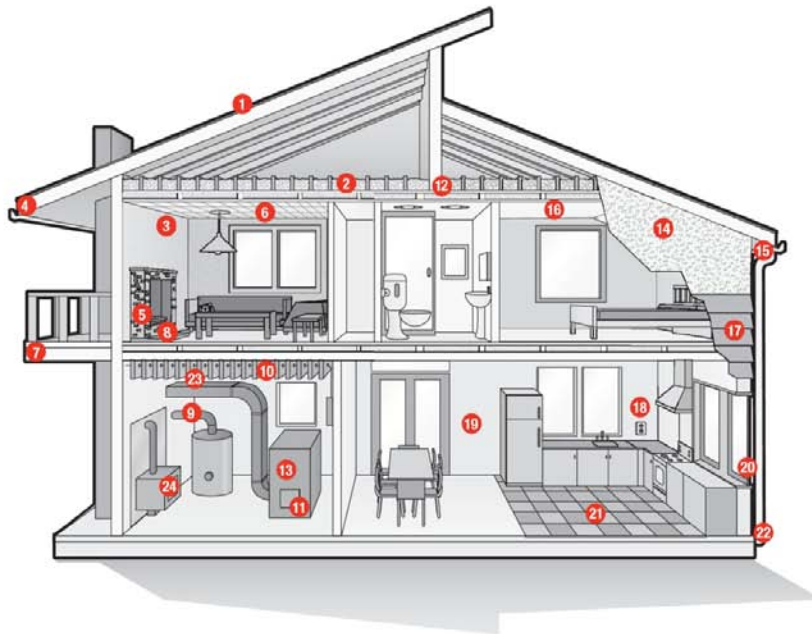
## Levels of Risk When Working with Asbestos

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 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.**