

the contractor wets down the material, which helps reduce the airborne fiber count. As the material is wetted, it is scraped from the surfaces and collected in specially labeled disposal bags. When a bag is full, it is sealed well, wiped down and placed into a second bag, which is also sealed. The bags are placed in a load-out chamber to await transfer to a specially lined waste trailer. When all the visible material is removed and bagged, the bags are loaded out to the waste trailer and ODOL performs another inspection. (In progress inspections are performed throughout the removal project.) When the ODOL Inspector is satisfied with the cleanliness of the containment, the contractor sprays the entire area with a 'lock-down', which seals any remaining fibers, those that are not visible, to the poly (a large plastic sheet used to make a containment field). After clearance testing is conducted inside the containment, and the air tests are within the accepted levels, only then is the containment removed and the remaining poly is bagged and disposed of as contaminated waste.

Other abatement techniques, such as removal of pipe insulation via a glove-bag or a mini-containment, are also conducted following procedures outlined by the Department of Labor's Rules for the Abatement of Friable Materials.

8. Where does asbestos go after it is removed?

After removal, the sealed bags are transported by a Licensed Abatement Contractor or a Licensed Asbestos Hauler, to an EPA approved landfill, where it is buried. Disposal manifests are required to be sent to ODOL at the end of each project to ensure the waste arrived at the landfill as required. Anyone hauling asbestos in Oklahoma is required to be licensed as an Abatement Contractor and carry environmental impairment insurance to the total of one million dollars. Under the authority of the EPA, the state Department of Environmental Quality regulates landfills and maintains a list of landfills approved to take asbestos containing waste.

9. How can I tell if I have asbestos in my building?

The only way to tell if a building material contains asbestos is to contact certified asbestos consultant personnel who can send a Licensed Inspector to take bulk samples. These samples are taken back to a lab, where they are analyzed under the microscope to determine the content. OSHA regulations require building owners to presume that any suspect material is asbestos until a laboratory analysis is conducted. Any material that contains less than one percent asbestos is considered non-regulated.

10. Who do I call if I have a concern?

Contact the state Labor Department concerning any possible asbestos problems, or if you'd like a copy of the Licensed Contractor's List or to become a Licensed Contractor, call the Asbestos Division at 405-521-6464.

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality may be contacted concerning renovation or demolition permits and NESHAPS enforcement at 405-702-4100.