

Asbestos Information from the State of Maryland

Maryland Department of the Environment

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral found in certain rock formations, mined from open pit mines. Most of the asbestos used in the United States today comes from Canada. Three types, chrysotile, amosite, and crocidolite are most commonly found in the United States. The short thin asbestos fibers released into the air are a hazard to persons who may breathe in these fibers. There is no known safe level of exposure for persons who work with asbestos or may be in the same area as an asbestos project.

Asbestos is a hazardous air pollutant that is regulated by the state and federal governments. The state of Maryland regulates how persons work with asbestos and also regulates those who train persons to work with asbestos. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations cover four asbestos activities: removal, repair, or encapsulation of asbestos-containing materials (ACM); approval of asbestos training providers; regulation of persons accredited to perform asbestos-related activities; and asbestos in schools.

- **Asbestos abatement contractors**—Companies that remove, repair, or encapsulate ACM must be licensed to do this work and must be licensed before they do this work. The contractor must submit an application and pay a fee. The license is valid for one year and must be renewed annually. These regulations are in COMAR 26.11.21 Control of Asbestos.
- **Asbestos training providers**—Companies that provide asbestos training must submit an application and pay a fee. Course approvals are valid for one year and must be renewed annually. The following initial and review courses may be approved: worker, supervisor, inspector, management planner, project designer, foreign language worker, and operations and maintenance. These regulations are in COMAR 26.11.23 Asbestos Accreditation of Individuals, and Approval of Training Courses.
- **Accredited persons**—Accredited persons who perform any of the activities for which they are trained must carry the Maryland Photo Identification Card. Before October 1, 2013, the card was issued by a Maryland-approved training provider or by the Department. After October 1, 2013, the accredited person will be required to pass an exam administered by MDE and the photo identification card will be issued. The card is valid for one year from the training date.
- **Asbestos in schools**—We provide technical assistance for the public and private schools that are subject to the 1987 Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act. The schools are required to have their facilities inspected for asbestos-containing building materials (ACBM) and develop a management plan for handling the ACBM. The department also conducts compliance inspections in these schools and EPA Region III provides enforcement. As part of the technical assistance, the department publishes a quarterly newsletter, *Asbestos 101*.

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Another important component of the program is managing asbestos activities in state facilities. The Asbestos Oversight Committee (AOC), formed as part of a 1983 governor's executive order, sets policy for asbestos activities in state-owned facilities, including determining which asbestos projects qualify for AOC funds for abatement. The program has a list of consultants that is provided only as a resource. The department does not license, nor in any way issue permits for these companies in their roles as consultants.

Asbestos Information from Montgomery College

Office of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS)

Asbestos-containing materials (ACM) have been used in the construction of buildings since the end of World War II. In 1989 the federal government passed a rule that eventually bans most of the asbestos used in the United States. The management and removal of existing ACM in buildings, however, raises concerns for the health and safety of the buildings' occupants. This is because asbestos may or may not pose a health hazard depending upon its condition. It does not present a problem if the ACM is in good condition, i.e., solid in appearance and to the touch. But, when it has deteriorated or been damaged such that its fibers can be released into the air and inhaled, it becomes hazardous.

Asbestos Locations at the College

EHS and the Office of Facilities and Public Safety personnel maintain records concerning the presence and removal of ACM for all College-owned buildings. Included in these records are floor plans and memos indicating which areas of various campus buildings contain ACM, the type of ACM, as well as areas from which the ACM has been removed.

Maps of ACM locations in Falcon Hall and Science South are available upon request.

Montgomery College EHS Contacts

If you have questions or concerns about asbestos and/or asbestos removal at the College, contact:

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