

## Information from Miami-Dade County

<http://www.miamidade.gov/environment/asbestos.asp>

### Asbestos

Asbestos is a group of naturally occurring minerals whose crystals form into long, thin fibers. Its unique properties include tensile strength, flexibility, acoustical properties and resistance to fire, thermal, chemical and electrical conditions. For these reasons, asbestos has been widely used as insulation in buildings.

While certain applications of asbestos use in buildings have been banned since the 1970s, there are still over 3,000 asbestos-containing building materials that are legally available and in use in the United States.

Asbestos is a known carcinogen, and if inhaled can cause diseases such as mesothelioma, asbestosis and lung cancer. The risk of contracting these diseases increases with the duration of exposure and also for smokers.

Potential exposure to asbestos occurs when building demolitions, maintenance, repairs, renovations or other activities remove, disturb or damage the Asbestos-Containing Material (ACM), causing a release of asbestos fibers. The presence of asbestos in a building does not necessarily mean that the health of its occupants is endangered. In fact, exposure is unlikely as long as the ACM remains intact and undisturbed.

For more information, call 305-372-6925.

### Demolition requirements

All demolition and renovation projects for commercial facilities require review for asbestos and approval from the Division of Environmental Resources Management, Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources.

An asbestos survey must be completed for all demolition projects and all renovation projects over 160 square feet.

An [affidavit for asbestos survey](#)  may be submitted at the time of plan review in order to proceed with plan review approval. However, **an asbestos survey must be completed prior to the start of the project.**

A completed [Notice of Demolition or Asbestos Renovation form](#)  must be submitted to Miami-Dade County at least 10 working days prior to start of a demolition or asbestos renovation project.

A copy of the asbestos survey report must be submitted with the completed Notice of Demolition or Asbestos Renovation for all demolition projects.

- View our [Asbestos Brochure](#)  (3 MB)
- See the [Asbestos Projects Fee Schedule](#) 
- See [Environmental Permits](#)
- Read more from the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#)