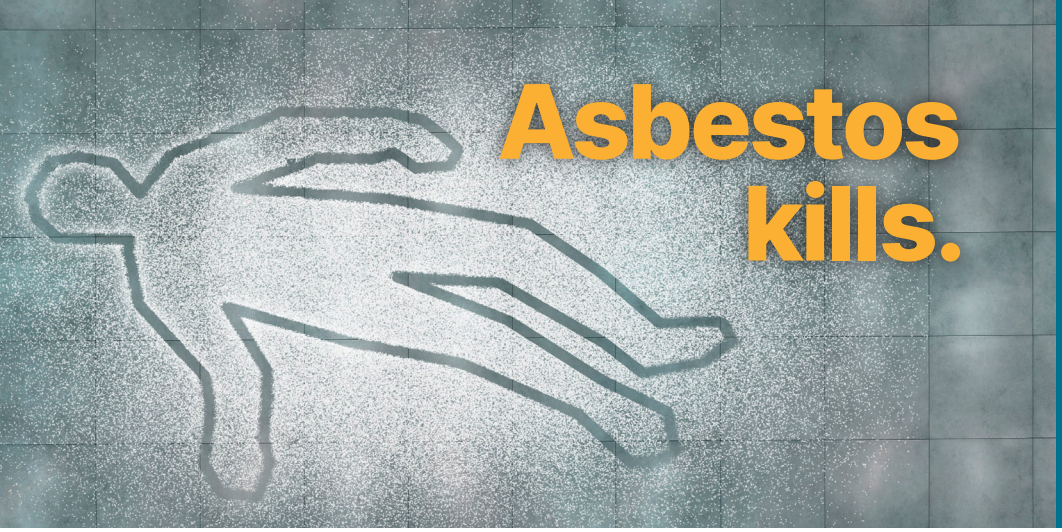


Asbestos kills.

Safety Matters @ Work
Workers Compensation Board of PEI

There's always time to stop, test and plan.

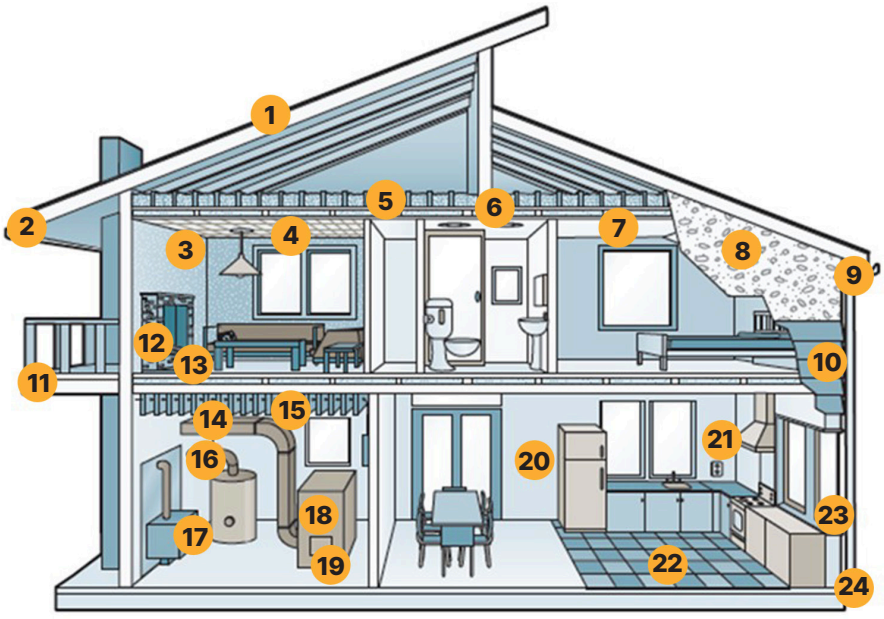
It's very important to take the time to stop, test and plan on sites that may contain asbestos. When products containing asbestos are disturbed, fine fibres can be released into the air, and without appropriate precautions, can be inhaled into the lungs. Once the fibres are lodged in the lungs, they can cause inflammation, scar tissue, and can escalate to breathing troubles. In some cases, it can even lead to serious health conditions like asbestosis and various cancers, including mesothelioma, taking years or decades to become apparent.

WHAT IS ASBESTOS?

Asbestos is a strong, fire-resistant mineral fibre. Before 1990, more than 3,000 products containing asbestos were used in residential and commercial building construction. As a result of being cost effective and durable, asbestos was used as insulation against heat and noise, and protection against fires. Today, when renovating or demolishing older homes or buildings, there is a high probability of encountering asbestos-containing materials.

WHERE COULD ASBESTOS BE LOCATED IN A BUILDING?

This illustration shows the location of asbestos-containing materials that were once commonly used in construction.



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

June 2023

Don't become the worst-case scenario.

Take the time to learn more at **wcb.pe.ca**

Preventing asbestos exposure is everyone's responsibility.

Section 49 of the *Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Act* General Regulations was updated in March 2020 and describes the minimum standard for working with and around asbestos or suspected asbestos-containing material.

Compliance with these regulations is the law, and when followed, can prevent potentially deadly exposure to asbestos-containing material.

Are you a building owner, employer, contractor, manager or worker involved in renovations, construction or furnace maintenance? If so, you have responsibilities under these regulations. Everyone in the workplace has a responsibility to comply with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* General Regulations and ensure that asbestos containing materials are identified and abated in a safe manner whenever a renovation, restoration or demolition project is undertaken. Failure to do so may expose workers, occupants and the general public to hazardous materials.

TO ENSURE THAT YOUR WORKPLACE IS SAFE FROM ASBESTOS EXPOSURE:

Inspect and Test for Asbestos

Certified asbestos contractors **must** ensure that a competent person inspects the worksite to identify asbestos or other hazardous materials that may be present. Only certified contractors can take samples or remove asbestos-containing materials.

Hire a Certified Asbestos Contractor

A signed copy of the Asbestos Notification Permit **must** be posted at the worksite by the certified asbestos contractor.

Develop an Asbestos Abatement Plan

When asbestos is present, owners and employers **must** develop and communicate a workplace Asbestos Management Plan to control and eliminate exposure for workers.

The Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee **must** review the Asbestos Management Plan on an annual basis and any recommendations from the Committee **must** be provided to the employer.

Dispose of Asbestos Properly

Waste materials containing asbestos **must** be disposed of at an approved waste management facility. The process for acquiring an Asbestos Disposal Permit is outlined in the *Environmental Protection Act Waste Resource Management Regulations*.

If you are aware of any asbestos abatement that is occurring at a workplace that does not have a permit posted, please contact the 24-hour OHS Emergency Line at 902-628-7513.

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

- Has this site been properly tested for asbestos?
- What actions will you take today to reduce your level of risk while working around asbestos?
- If asbestos was found, what is the abatement plan?

To report a serious work-related injury or explosion, contact the 24-hour Occupational Health and Safety Emergency Line at 902-628-7513

DOWNLOAD THE GUIDE TO PEI OHS LEGISLATION APP TODAY!

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TAKE THE TIME TO LEARN MORE.
Visit **wcb.pe.ca** for a copy of the PEI Guide to Asbestos Management and a list of certified PEI asbestos contractors.

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