

# ASBESTOS CONTAINING MATERIALS

## WHAT IS ASBESTOS?

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral fiber used extensively in building materials from the 1930s through the 1970s. Asbestos is present in many buildings built prior to 1980. It is estimated that about 200 million Americans live in houses that contain asbestos. Asbestos may be found in materials such as pipe insulation, drywall joint compound, floor tiles, ceiling tiles, gasket materials, fire door fill, and boiler insulation. While generally not used in new building construction now, asbestos is an integrated part of more than three thousand products and can still be purchased over the counter today.

## RISKS + MANAGEMENT



MASS.GOV ASBESTOS REGULATIONS

We now know that inhaled asbestos that is disturbed in building materials can present serious health and safety concerns. When properly managed, undamaged Asbestos Containing Materials (ACMs) in buildings do not release fibers into the air and therefore pose negligible health and safety risks. For intact or undisturbed ACMs, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) recommends providing comprehensive and effective management of materials in place rather than total removal. In accordance with this DEP regulation, ACMs at MIT that are in good condition are left in place and monitored.

## SAFETY REMINDERS



**DO NOT** install screws, pins, nails, or hangers or do damage to ceilings or walls.

**ONLY** use easily-removable mounting strips or putty when hanging items on the wall.

For fire safety reasons, please remember campus residents **CANNOT** cover more than 40x40 inches of room walls or more than 1/3 of doors with decorations. Ceilings cannot be decorated.

Always promptly report any observed damage to building materials.

## REMEMBER



Asbestos contained in intact, solid materials poses a negligible risk of exposure.

**DO NOT** remove, cut, drill, sand, grind, or otherwise disturb any building materials, as it is possible that the materials may contain asbestos.

## RESOURCES + CONTACT

Learn more about MIT's approach to asbestos management, and find informational resources, on the EHS website.

*If a concern arises, please contact your House Operations Manager promptly or dial House Operations "Unit 12" at (617) 253-1500.*

## BE SMART, BE SAFE



What if there is damage to building materials, such as damage to walls or ceilings?

- 1 DO NOT** try to clean the material up or further disturb the area.
- 2** Promptly report damage to the House Operations Manager or dial (617) 253-1500 to speak with "Unit 12" House Operations.
- 3** If you come into contact with a damaged wall, carefully remove and bag affected clothing. **DO NOT** place items in washing machines. Consult with MIT Environment, Health & Safety (EHS) on next steps.



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