



Demolitions and Asbestos

1) Overview

In Maine, building demolitions happen on a regular basis. Many of the demolitions occur in older buildings that are likely to contain some asbestos products, particularly in or on heating (HVAC), wall, floor, and ceiling systems. These demolition projects may be happening without the proper protection of employees, the general public, and the environment. It is important to remember that state and federal laws require that owners have buildings inspected and have any asbestos products properly removed prior to demolition. The Maine DEP is forwarding this information to municipal officials in an effort to increase awareness of and compliance with applicable rules, resulting in less asbestos exposure to the general public, demolition site personnel, and environment.

2) What Can Municipalities Do To Help?

Municipalities can greatly assist the people of Maine and the Department by joining with the DEP and the US EPA to ensure that asbestos is properly managed during demolitions. *Specifically, municipalities can hand out appropriate information, issue demolition permits only to persons, who can demonstrate that they will properly handle the asbestos, and mail or fax the building demolition (BDF) report form to the Department.*

The following check-off list can be used.

- A) _____ Provided "Asbestos Fact Sheet" to Applicant
- B) _____ Had applicant fill out "Building Demolition Form" (BDF)
- C) _____ Did not issue Demolition Permit to Applicant not answering "Yes" to three questions on BDF Form (OPTIONAL BUT SUGGESTED)
- D) _____ Municipality faxed (or Mailed) BDF Form to DEP at 287-7826

3) What Are The Rules?

Simply stated state and federal asbestos rules and regulations require that buildings be inspected for asbestos products and have them removed prior to demolition. The inspection and removal operations must be performed by DEP-licensed companies under regulated and controlled conditions.

4) Using the Building Demolition Report Form

The purpose of this form is to ensure that an applicant has the correct information to properly remove asbestos from a building prior to demolition. The form has two parts which need to be filled out by the applicant. The first section of the form is the Pre-Demolition Building Inspection.

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the presence of asbestos-containing materials. In lieu of inspection, the owner or operator may presume that building materials and components contain asbestos that requires that these materials be abated in accordance with these rules.

A DEP-certified Asbestos Inspector must perform the inspection. The inspection must identify all asbestos-containing materials that could be impacted during the renovation or demolition activity, must be completed prior to submission of notification to the Department, must be in writing, and must be on-site and made immediately available to the Department upon request.

Residential dwellings constructed before 1981 that consist of two (2) to four (4) units must be evaluated for building materials and components that are likely to contain asbestos. This evaluation may be performed by a DEP-certified Asbestos Inspector or by a person familiar with asbestos-containing building materials. If building materials and/or components likely to contain asbestos are found, these must be removed in accordance with these regulations prior to demolition except as allowed in section 7.B of this rule or must be tested by a DEP-certified Asbestos Inspector to demonstrate that they are not ACM.

Single family residences, and residences constructed after 1980 that consist of two (2) to four (4) units, are exempt from the inspection provisions of this section.

Specific building materials that do not require inspection, sampling, and analysis for asbestos include: wood, fiberglass, glass, plastic, metal, laminates, and gypsum board when joint compound was used only as a filler and not as a layered component, and exterior caulking and glazing. Also, building materials do not need to be inspected when written documents exist confirming that no asbestos was used in the materials that will be impacted, or that the materials were previously inspected by a DEP-certified Asbestos Inspector and affirmatively determined through sampling and analysis to not be ACM.

NOTE: To maintain compliance with Maine law, if more than 3 square feet or 3 linear feet of ACM is present, this ACM must be removed prior to the demolition, except that intact packing, gaskets, roofing, and flooring may be left in place when the demolition is performed by large equipment in accordance with these rules. Homeowners are encouraged to conduct a walk through of their single family homes to identify suspect asbestos-containing materials, such as thermal system insulation, ceiling tile, exterior cementitious siding, rigid panels, and resilient floor covering, and hire a consultant or contractor if suspect materials are observed. The Department can provide, upon request, more information regarding common asbestos-containing materials in buildings.
