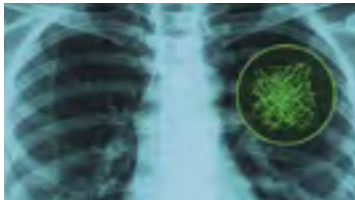


Asbestos kills. It's best to test.

Renovating a home or building built before 1990?
Test for asbestos before you start your work.



The danger of asbestos

Inhaling asbestos fibres can cause chronic, irreversible and life-threatening lung diseases. These diseases, which can appear several decades after exposure, include asbestosis (a lung scarring disease), lung cancer and mesothelioma (a deadly form of cancer).



Although asbestos-containing products are generally safe when left undisturbed, they become brittle over time and can crumble into microscopic fibres 18,000 times thinner than a human hair. When working on a home or building built before 1990, it's safer to assume asbestos materials are present and to take every precaution.



Where asbestos could be hiding

Asbestos doesn't burn, which is why it was used in many products to resist heat. It could be anywhere. Common asbestos-containing materials are: built up roofing, shingles/siding, vermiculite insulation, ceiling tiles and coatings, popcorn ceilings, drywall and cement sheets, plaster putties and caulking, electrical switchboard panels, plumbing insulation, pipe and duct coverings, thermal boiler and fireplace insulation and many types of flooring.



What to do if your home or building was built before 1990

- Hire an asbestos abatement professional or lab to test the materials for asbestos. They will provide a report that identifies the location, type and condition of any asbestos, as well as a control (abatement) plan.
- If your home or building contains asbestos, hire an asbestos abatement professional to remove it safely.



Learn more

Find more information and resources, including a list of asbestos labs and an asbestos abatement guide, at worksafesask.ca

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