

Asbestos and Fire Cleanup—Precautions

Note: Federal, state and local agencies are working to establish a coordinated asbestos cleanup effort. Additional information may be issued, check www.OurAir.org for updates.

This fact sheet covers information about asbestos and about cleanup of asbestos-containing materials after a fire.

Key points:

- When houses and buildings burn, asbestos fibers can become airborne, creating a potentially hazardous situation. Cleanup can make conditions worse if not done properly.
- Asbestos is a carcinogen and respiratory hazard. Handling asbestos can be harmful to your health.
- It is best to use a licensed asbestos contractor using safe handling practices and proper safety equipment to remove known or suspected asbestos-containing materials.
- A survey by a certified asbestos consultant and/or site technician may be conducted to separate asbestos materials from other debris in order to reduce the amount of debris that needs to be disposed of as asbestos-containing waste, or to clear a site as non-hazardous.
- Many buildings constructed before 1981 have regulated asbestos-containing materials. Regulated asbestos-containing material is any material that contains greater than 1% asbestos and is **friable**. Friable means it can be crumbled, pulverized, or reduced to powder by hand pressure when dry. Some common examples are spray acoustic ceilings, acoustic tiles, various plasters, duct wrap, paper backing of linoleum, non-bituminous roofing felt, wallboard, joint compound (joint “mud”), and thermal insulation on pipes and boilers.
- Buildings constructed after 1981 may have less of these regulated materials, however, they may asbestos bound up with cement, vinyl, asphalt, or some other type of hardening binder. Some examples of non-friable asbestos building products are transite (cement) siding, vinyl asbestos floor tiles, and asphalt roofing shingles. When these materials are burned, they may release asbestos fibers into the air, and the rubble from these materials should be considered as potentially containing friable asbestos.
- Where asbestos-containing materials are known or assumed to be present, the debris should be stabilized by wetting and covered with plastic sheeting until it is scheduled to be removed. Wind-blown dry materials will release hazardous asbestos fibers.
- Asbestos-containing materials must be disposed of at a landfill approved to receive asbestos.



For more information see www.OurAir.org, or contact Mike Broughton at 805-961-8872 or broughtonm@sbcapcd.org.

See asbestos contractors on reverse →

Asbestos Contractors

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| <p>Channel Coast Corp. 123 Santa Barbara Street Santa Barbara, CA 93101 Tel: (805) 966-6690, (805) 899-1227, (805) 899-1228 Fax: (805) 899-8690 Cell: (805) 331-3854</p> | <p>Dresser Services, Inc. Attn: Stephen R. Smith P.O. Box 378 Bakersfield, CA 93302-0378 Tel: (661) 589-8655 Fax: (661) 589-8658</p> |
| <p>A.S.I. Inc. Attn: Pat O'Malley 2800 Pegasus Drive, Unit 1 Bakersfield, CA 93308 Tel: (661) 399-9661 Fax: (661) 399-9685</p> | <p>Portney Construction Attn: Doug Portney 1909 Redwood Drive Paso Robles, CA 93446 Tel: (805) 238-7944 Fax: (805) 237-9949 Pager: (805) 462-5027</p> |
| <p>Precision Environmental, Inc. 180 Canada Larga Road Ventura, CA 93001 Tel: (805) 641-9333 Fax: (805) 648-6999 www.precisionenv.com</p> | <p>Abateco Attn: Florenzio Marquiz 2850 Petrol Rd Bakersfield, CA 93308 Tel: (661) 589-1227</p> |
| <p>Alternative Technologies, Inc. 19441 Business Center Dr., Ste 105 Northridge, CA 91324 Tel: (800) 595-6969 (818) 700-8002</p> | <p>Ventura Asbestos Control 5150 Goldman Ave., Unit B Moorpark, CA 93021 Tel: (805) 523-8894 (800) 633-6438</p> |
| <p>Certified Specialists, Inc. Attn: Robert Liddell 4974 N. Fresno Street, Ste 258 Fresno, CA 93726 Tel: (209) 252-7454</p> | <p>American Technologies, Inc American Restoration 9701 Topanga Canyon Place Chatsworth, CA 91311 (818) 700-5060</p> |
| <p>Envirotech Industries, Inc. Attn: Ralph H. Bean 714 South Vail Avenue Montebello, CA 90640 Tel: (323) 728-7329 Fax: (323) 728-7349</p> | <p>Premier Environmental Services Attn: William E. Mace 126 E. Haley St., Suite #A-14 Santa Barbara, CA 93101 Tel: (805) 569-5035 Fax: (805) 962-1065 Email: wmace@premieriaq.com</p> |
| <p>Pearl Bay Corporation Attn: Mark Lee 912 De La Vina Street Santa Barbara, CA 03101 Tel: (805) 966-1480 Cell: (805) 455-2011 Fax: (805) 966-3401</p> | <p>Zenco Engineering, Inc. 438 Calle San Pablo, Unit D Camarillo, CA 93012 Tel: (805) 482-2080</p> |
| <p>CAT I/II ROOFING ONLY Quaglino Roofing Attn: Steve Quaglino 815 Fiero Lane San Luis Obispo Tel: (805) 543-0560 Fax: (805) 543-0679</p> | <p>MEC Inc. Attn: Victor Correa California & 20th Vandenberg AFB, CA 93437 Tel: (805) 734-3590 Cell: (616) 816-5914 Fax: (805) 734-3849 Email: victorc@mec-inc.com</p> |

NOTE: The Business and Professions Code and the Labor Code require asbestos consultants and site surveillance technicians to be certified by the Division of Occupational Safety and Health. For additional listings, refer to the telephone directory's yellow pages under Asbestos Abatement & Removal Services. **In order to avoid any conflict of interests, the APCD cannot endorse any specific asbestos contractor or consultant.**