

When hiring a contractor to perform renovation or demolition activities in a single family-dwelling, it is recommended to first conduct an asbestos inspection. Knowing the condition and location of asbestos will reduce the potential for exposure to occupants and for regulatory violations by the contractor.



## WHERE DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

To find North Carolina accredited asbestos inspectors and supervisors, or for more information, visit our website at: <https://epi.dph.ncdhhs.gov/asbestos/healthaz.html>

### Or contact us directly:

Health Hazards Control Unit (HHCU)  
1912 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1912  
(919) 707-5950

**In Buncombe, Forsyth, and Mecklenburg Counties, local agencies must also be notified:**

**Buncombe County:** WNC Regional Air Quality Agency • (828) 250-6776

**Forsyth County:** Office of Environmental Assistance and Protection • (336) 703-2440

**Mecklenburg County:** Mecklenburg County Air Quality • (704) 336-5430

### For additional information on asbestos:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
[www.epa.gov/asbestos](http://www.epa.gov/asbestos)



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**



NC Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Public Health  
Environmental Health Section  
Health Hazards Control Unit (HHCU)

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## HOME OWNERS & ASBESTOS

### What Home Owners Should Know In North Carolina



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
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## WHAT IS ASBESTOS?

Asbestos is a naturally occurring fibrous mineral and was once used in more than 3,000 different building materials.

Asbestos is known to cause lung cancer, asbestosis (scarring of the lung tissue) and mesothelioma (a cancer of the lining of the lung or abdominal cavity).

Disturbing asbestos in your home during a renovation or demolition activity could result in personal exposure, home contamination, additional cost in project delays and cleanup, and even legal issues.

In North Carolina, homeowners may perform their own home renovations without any testing or permits even when disturbing or removing asbestos. However, the HHCU strongly encourages homeowners to get materials suspected of containing asbestos tested by a North Carolina Accredited Asbestos Inspector before performing any renovation or demolition activity that will disturb asbestos.



## WHERE IS ASBESTOS IN MY HOUSE?

Asbestos was used in many household products. If your house has asbestos, some of the common products that contain asbestos are:

- Vinyl Floor Tile
- Drywall Joint Compound
- Attic Insulation
- Vinyl Sheet Flooring
- Cement Siding or Roofing Shingles
- Textured Ceiling & Ceiling Tiles
- Roofing Shingles or Felts
- Certain Mastics or Glues
- Pipe Insulation & Mudded Elbows



## IS ALL ASBESTOS BANNED?

Even today some asbestos containing products have not been completely banned. It is recommended that testing be completed prior to any planned renovation or demolition activity.

## ARE THERE LAWS THAT HOME OWNERS HAVE TO FOLLOW?

Yes. If a homeowner decides to hire an asbestos contractor, ensure that these individuals are accredited by visiting the HHCU website. An asbestos permit is required when an asbestos removal contractor removes at least 160 square feet, 260 linear feet, or 35 cubic feet of friable or regulated asbestos.

## WHERE AND HOW DO I GET THESE MATERIALS TESTED?

Materials suspected to contain asbestos should be sampled by a North Carolina Accredited Asbestos Inspector. These professionals are trained in the proper investigation and sampling techniques. Samples should be sent to a nationally accredited laboratory.