

10 steps to complying with asbestos abatement requirements

Most asbestos-containing building materials were phased out by the early 1990s. However, asbestos has been found in a few types of construction materials in relatively new buildings (built as recently as 2018). Before you begin renovations or start demolishing a home or building, follow these guidelines to ensure asbestos is safely identified and removed.

- 1 A home or building is to be demolished, renovated, or salvaged.
- 2 The building owner (or owner's representative) and the employer (e.g., builder, demolition contractor) retain a qualified person (a certified asbestos surveyor) to perform a risk assessment and asbestos survey before conducting work where asbestos may be disturbed.
- 3 The qualified person inspects the home or building, collects representative bulk samples, and has the samples analyzed by a qualified laboratory.
- 4 The qualified person prepares a report that identifies all inspection results (including drawings, plans, or specifications), the results of the risk assessment, and the scope of work for abatement of the asbestos.
- 5 The report containing the inspection results is provided to the owner or employer. The inspection results must be available at the worksite.
- 6 The owner or employer retains a licensed asbestos abatement contractor with certified workers. A notice of project (NOP) with written work procedures is submitted to WorkSafeBC at least 48 hours before asbestos removal work begins.
- 7 Safe removal and disposal of identified asbestos occurs.
- 8 After the asbestos removal, the owner or employer receives written confirmation that the asbestos specified for removal in the NOP has been safely removed. A copy of the inspection results is available on site.
- 9 The owner authorizes demolition, renovation, or salvage work on the home or building to proceed. The contractor proceeds with the work using safe work procedures. Copies of inspection results and post-abatement reports are available on site.
- 10 If any material suspected to be asbestos is found during demolition, renovation, or salvage work, all work is to cease. Go back to step 2 and retain a qualified person so that, if confirmed to be asbestos, the material is safely contained or removed by following steps 2–8.

