



What is Asbestos?

Asbestos is the name given to a group of naturally occurring minerals used in certain building materials.

What are the dangers of asbestos?

Undisturbed materials generally do not pose health risks; however, they may become hazardous when damaged or disturbed. The inhalation of asbestos fibers in large quantities can cause diseases of the lungs and other organs that may not appear until years after the exposure.

Where is it commonly found?

Asbestos is commonly found in pipe insulation, floor tiles, floor tile mastic, ceiling tiles, and window caulk. Please review your facilities Asbestos Management Plan for specific types and locations.

What are the health effects of asbestos exposure?

Asbestos exposure can lead to diseases such as lung cancer, asbestosis, and mesothelioma (cancer of the lung cavity lining). There is a long latency period for these diseases.

Is it dangerous to have asbestos containing material in my school?

Not necessarily. Undamaged asbestos that is properly managed poses no health risk to students or teachers.

What are my rights as a teacher or employee regarding access to the management plan?

Parents, teachers, and school employees, or their representatives, have the right to inspect the school's asbestos management plan at any time. The school must make the plan available.

What is an asbestos management plan?

An asbestos management plan is required to provide documentation of the recommended asbestos response actions, the location of asbestos within the school, and any action taken to repair or remove the material. The school authority must maintain records to be included in the Asbestos Management Plan.

When do I use it and where is it located?

The management plan can be used as a tool when needed. A paper copy should be available for review or audit at all times in the Main Office. An electronic copy can also be found on the AF Shared Server (afnet.achievementfirst.org). The plan should be presented to all outside contractors before any work commences.

How do I use it?

The plan is organized in sections. Please refer to the table of contents for specific plan details. Located in each plan is a section entitled "Forms and Templates", here you will find contractor work permits, basic notification letters and other useful information.

What to do if you cannot find what you're looking for?

If there is a specific question regarding the Asbestos Management Plan you can always contact Diana Alvarado at Team Facilities or use the helpful links below.

Resources:

EPA/AHERA - Asbestos in Schools:
<http://www.epa.gov/asbestos/pubs/abcsfinal.pdf>
<http://www.epa.gov/asbestos/pubs/aherafaq.html#8>

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