

Reporting and Managing Safety Issues

Asbestos

Asbestos is a generic term used to describe any of six naturally occurring fibrous minerals. Due to its desirable characteristics, asbestos was incorporated into a number of widely used products, many of which were used in building construction beginning in the late 1800's. By the early 1980's most products containing asbestos had been removed from the market. When left intact and undisturbed, these materials do not pose a health risk to building occupants.

Some common building materials that have been found to contain asbestos at UAMS include:

- wall and ceiling plaster
- vinyl floor tiles
- ceiling tiles
- pipe insulation
- roofing materials

These and virtually any building material installed prior to 1981 are presumed to contain asbestos unless testing proves otherwise.

Damaged asbestos-containing material should be reported to [Engineering & Operations](#) or [Occupational Health and Safety](#) (OH&S). OH&S is available to assist in determining whether a suspect material contains asbestos and to perform hazard evaluations.

Prior to building maintenance or renovation projects, the supervisor or project manager is responsible for arranging for a survey to determine if asbestos-containing building material is present in the work area and if so, whether it will be impacted by the planned work. When appropriate, asbestos abatement is performed before the project proceeds.

OH& S offers services for identifying asbestos-containing materials, prior to construction or maintenance activities, which may disturb asbestos. We also offer Asbestos Awareness Training for employees who may come in contact with asbestos-containing materials as part of their job (e.g., maintenance workers, Environmental Services employees, etc.).