

**Identification of Asbestos-Containing Materials**

**Quick Reference**

This information is provided to Penn State employees, students and contractors to ensure appropriate procedures are followed to protect the University community, environment and visitors from the potential hazards of Asbestos-Containing Materials (ACM).

The following materials are assumed to be ACM until proven otherwise by laboratory analysis. Samples may only be collected by EHS or other approved representatives:

# Pipe Run, Fitting, Duct Insulations and Sealants:

Thermal system insulations that are not obviously fiberglass or foam rubber (i.e. pipe, duct, heat exchanger, valve, fitting, etc.).

**This includes cementitious, or "mudded", pipe fitting insulation, as well as, sealants (e.g. putties or coatings over fiberglass insulation seams, flanges, butt ends, etc.).**

NOTE: If pipe insulation is not visible in rooms or above drop ceilings, it should be assumed that the pipes are inside walls or ceilings. Therefore, demolition precautions must be considered during design and work activities.

# Floor Tile, Sheet Flooring and Adhesives (Mastics):

This includes 9"x9" **and** 12"x12" tiles, all sheet flooring and associated adhesives (mastics).

# Covebase and Adhesives:

# Hard molded cementitious covebase (often black or dark gray).

# Adhesives under vinyl covebase.

# Ceiling Tile and Adhesives:

Ceiling tiles that are not clearly marked as being manufactured by Armstrong, Inc.

Adhesives under ceiling tiles.

Locations of asbestos-containing ceiling tiles can be found on the Asbestos [Blockplans](http://www.ehs.psu.edu/occhealth/asbestos_blockplans.cfm) on the EHS webpage.

# Lab Bench Tops (Soapstone) and Adhesives:

Soapstone laboratory bench tops, shelves, etc.

Adhesives below tops (soapstone and epoxy) and between seams.

# Lab Fume Hood Liner and Shelf (Transite / cement board):

Those that are not obviously fiberglass or metal panels. Suspect materials are typically Transite (asbestos cement board).

# Cooling Tower Substrate (paper-like):

Those not obviously metal, fiberglass or plastic. Suspect substrates are usually a thin, gray, paper-like material or cement board (Transite) made of a mix of concrete and asbestos).

**Built-up / Tar-Based Roofing (BUR) and Coatings:**

These may be under new roofing or capping.

**Caulks (Windows, Doors, Vents, Masonry, etc.):**

This can interior and exterior and may be under newer layers.

**Window, Door Glazing Putties:**

These can be interior, exterior or both and can be white / gray or black / dark brown tar-like.

# Braided and Paper-Like Wire Insulations:

Braided and paper-like wire insulations are typically cloth-like and can be any color. Some are also tar impregnated.

Paper-like insulations are normally white or light gray in color and used in high temperature or high voltage applications.

# Woven Cloth Lab Gloves or Mitts:

These are normally white or light gray burlap-like and used in high temperature applications.

# Asbestos Building Blockplan Use:

The Asbestos Blockplans on the EHS webpage are for identification of known interior architectural applications of ACM only (i.e. ceiling / wall plasters, spray-on fireproofing / coatings, ceiling tiles / adhesives and Transite panels).

**DO NOT assume that buildings not on the Asbestos Blockplan List do not contain ACM.** Use the above assumptions at all times when planning renovations, demolitions or conducting maintenance activities.

For more information on suspect ACM see the EPA Sample List of [Suspect Asbestos-Containing Materials on the EHS webpage.](http://www.ehs.psu.edu/occhealth/asbestos_materials_list.cfm)

# Regulatory and Policy Summary

No one but PA licensed asbestos workers may handle, remove or dispose of any ACM.

OPP is currently the only PSU department with personnel licensed to handle asbestos. However, their allowable scope-of-work is limited to small-scale, short-duration projects only. Larger projects are completed by EHS/OPP "approved" contractors.

Call Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) at 865-6391 if you have any questions or need a material identified or confirmed. DO NOT sample the material yourself.