



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

# Asbestos-containing materials at Metro transfer stations

### **What is asbestos and why is it in some construction materials?**

Asbestos is a common term for a group of naturally occurring minerals used in thousands of building products in the United States, most extensively in the 1940s through 1970s. Asbestos has various qualities for residential and industrial building construction including durability, flexibility, and resistance to heat or electricity.

### **Why do Metro transfer stations refuse construction materials that contain asbestos?**

Protecting the safety of our customers and employees is the highest priority at Metro's two solid waste transfer stations. Asbestos is known to cause lung cancer, asbestosis and mesothelioma, an aggressive and deadly form of cancer. There is no safe level of exposure to asbestos. Metro's operating permits for both transfer stations, issued by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), prohibit the acceptance of materials that contain asbestos.

### **What does Metro require if I bring materials that might contain asbestos?**

Metro requires paperwork for all loads of construction, remodeling or demolition waste for certain materials that may contain asbestos. This paperwork includes analytical test results certifying that tested materials contain 1 percent or less asbestos by weight.

### **What materials may need to be tested for asbestos?**

Metro requires analytical test results for the following materials:

- **Interior walls and ceilings:** acoustical tiles, glue dots, plaster, and textured surfaces
- **Exterior walls:** cement siding, stucco
- **Flooring:** vinyl tiles, sheet vinyl, some mastic adhesives
- **Insulation/fireproofing:** block, boiler, spray-applied, vermiculite, monokote, sink undercoating, thermal system insulation (fiberglass, cellulose, and mineral wool are exempt)
- **Gaskets:** furnace, mechanical, boiler, wood stove (automotive gaskets are exempt)
- **Heating:** white paper or seam tape on ducts, air-duct cement and insulation
- **Roofing materials:** tar paper, felt, silver/white roofing paint, Nicolite paper
- **Fire doors, fire/kiln brick and fireproofing**
- **Various compounds:** window glazing, adhesives, caulks, patching, mastics, vapor barrier products (plastic or synthetic materials such as Tyvek are exempt)
- **Electrical:** switch gear, circuit boxes and fuse panels; wiring with cloth insulation (Romex wiring is exempt)

**Please note:** Flat/built-up roofing is not accepted, even if customers present negative analytical test results.

**What happens if I bring these types of materials without asbestos test results?**

If any of these materials are brought to a Metro transfer station without test results indicating they are free of asbestos, the load will be turned away. All suspect materials must be tested at a DEQ-certified laboratory. A list of certified test labs can be found at [www.oregonmetro.gov/asbestosrules](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/asbestosrules).

**The materials I'm bringing are relatively new. Do I still need to test for asbestos?**

Materials listed on the previous page that come from a structure built in or after 2004 do not need to be tested for asbestos.

**Where can I take materials that contain asbestos?**

Residential (non-commercial) customers may bring limited amounts of asbestos-containing materials to a Metro household hazardous waste facility. The materials must be delivered in no more than two sealed 25-pound double-lined 6 mil asbestos bags. The asbestos-containing materials must be bagged and sealed before they arrive at a Metro household hazardous waste facility. Metro accepts no more than two 25-pound bags per customer per day.

Residential customers with more than 50 pounds of asbestos-containing materials and all commercial customers can take their loads to a landfill permitted to accept asbestos for disposal. Two landfills close to the Portland area that can accept asbestos-containing waste are:

- **Hillsboro Landfill**, 503-640-9427
- **Wasco County Landfill (The Dalles)**, 541-296-4082

**Loads must be properly and safely prepared before they are delivered to the landfill.**

Call the landfill for details, hours of operation and pricing before you take asbestos-containing waste there.

**Where can I get answers to other questions I have about asbestos?**

Learn more about Metro's requirements at [oregonmetro.gov/asbestosrules](http://oregonmetro.gov/asbestosrules) or call 503-234-3000.

Find more information about asbestos, where it might be present and how to properly handle it on the DEQ website at [www.oregon.gov/deq/Hazards-and-Cleanup/Pages/Asbestos-Information.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/deq/Hazards-and-Cleanup/Pages/Asbestos-Information.aspx) or call 503-229-5982.