My building is new, and I do not believe it contains Asbestos. Do I still need to have it inspected?
Yes, even though most Asbestos has been banned from production in the U.S., Asbestos products are still being produced, imported, and installed in new construction. All buildings must be inspected regardless of age or size.

Where do I dispose of asbestos waste?
Asbestos waste may only be disposed of at specific landfills approved by DEQ’s Solid Waste Program. Though the Asbestos Control Program regulates friable asbestos materials greater than 1%, the Solid Waste Program regulates friable and non-friable asbestos reported as greater than zero. This disposal regulation applies to all waste regardless of residential exemption.

What will happen if I fail to comply with these requirements?
Failure to comply with these requirements may result in enforcement actions including fines and penalties. In some cases, individuals and companies can be prosecuted criminally. Both the building owner and operator share the responsibility of making sure these requirements are met.

Where can I find additional information, including lists of Montana accredited Asbestos personnel and necessary forms?
Additional information including contractor lists, inspectors, and direct program contact information can be found on DEQ’s website:


For more information contact:

Asbestos Control Program
1-406-444-5300
www.asbestos.mt.gov

DEQ Enforcement Division
Asbestos Complaint Line
1-406-444-0379

This guidance document is current as of January 2020. However, information contained in this document is subject to change pending rule revisions.

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Before you renovate or demolish...

INSPECT for Asbestos using a Montana accredited inspector.
NOTIFY Montana’s Department of Environmental Quality.
PERMIT Asbestos activities with DEQ.

It’s the Law!

January 2020
Asbestos is a group of naturally occurring minerals made up of long thin microscopic fibers. Asbestos fibers have been used in thousands of materials and products because of their unique properties, including high tensile strength, flexibility, acoustical properties, and resistance to thermal, chemical and electrical conditions. If inhaled, Asbestos fibers can cause diseases such as lung cancer, mesothelioma, and asbestosis.

What products or materials contain Asbestos?

Asbestos is used in over 3,500 different building materials. It has been added to thermal systems, wallboard systems, surface textures, plaster, concrete, adhesives, ceiling tiles, roofing, pipe components, siding, vermiculite insulation, and other products. Notably, Asbestos is still being added and imported in many building material products and may not be clearly marked as Asbestos containing.

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As a building owner or contractor, can I inspect for Asbestos myself?

Asbestos inspections may only be performed by a trained and currently accredited Montana Asbestos inspector. Asbestos can only be identified using microscopic analysis, utilizing Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved analytical methods, or may be assumed to be Asbestos Containing Material (ACM) by a Montana accredited Asbestos inspector.

The three categories of ACM:

1) Regulated Asbestos Containing Material (RACM)

This category includes, but is not limited to, all friable ACM and non-friable ACM that has become friable or will become friable during a renovation or a demolition activity. All RACM must be handled by accredited individuals under a permit issued by DEQ. All RACM must be removed prior to renovation or demolition activities, when planned activities impact Asbestos.

2) Category I – Non-friable Asbestos Containing Material

This category includes non-friable packing, gaskets, resilient floor coverings, and asphalt roofing products that contain more than one percent Asbestos. These materials may have to be removed prior to renovation or demolition depending on type, condition, and removal method.

3) Category II – Non-friable Asbestos-Containing Material

This category includes any non-friable materials, excluding Category I, containing more than one percent Asbestos. Examples are cement siding, cement piping, adhesives, sealants, and concrete. Category II non-friable materials should be removed before renovation or demolition begins since these materials are more likely to become friable than Category I materials and would therefore be regulated by DEQ.

Who do I have to notify when I renovate a building that contains Asbestos?

An Asbestos Project Permit Application must be submitted to DEQ ten working days prior to planned renovation or demolition activities when greater than ten square feet, three linear feet, or three cubic feet of RACM will be disturbed.

Can I remove Asbestos myself?

An individual or contractor removing greater than ten square feet, three linear feet or three cubic feet of Regulated Asbestos Containing Material (RACM) must be a Montana accredited contractor/supervisor. The removal of Category I and II non-friable material must meet OSHA’s Asbestos training and work practice requirements. Contact OSHA at (800) 321-6742 or (406) 247-7494 or www.osha.gov for more information.