

Asbestos Information

The State and Federal Asbestos regulations apply to all existing public and commercial buildings. Once a building has been used as a commercial or public building, the asbestos rules apply for as long as the building stands, even if a commercial building is converted into a dwelling. The only buildings that are exempt are residential structures with four-dwelling units or less; however, if such buildings are being demolished for a commercial purpose, such as clearing the land to build a commercial or public building, then the asbestos rules do apply.

The Asbestos Division of the Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) **must be notified** prior to any renovation or demolition of a public or commercial building.

Furthermore, before any permits can be issued for any work to be done to these buildings, an asbestos survey must be conducted by a state licensed inspector.

If the Asbestos Survey indicates that asbestos is not present...

If the results of this inspection indicate that there is no asbestos present, a copy of the letter needs to be submitted with plans for work at time that permit is applied for, and any contractor or the owner can conduct the work in accordance with all applicable state laws.

If the Asbestos Survey indicates that asbestos is present...

If the results of the inspection indicate that asbestos is present, a state licensed asbestos abatement contractor must be hired to remove the portions needed to conduct the work. This inspection notice also must be submitted with the plans for the work along with the information (name, address, phone number, license number) on the asbestos abatement contractor that will be used, at the time that the permit is applied for.

Find a licensed inspector or abatement contractor at:

<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/asbestos/whocan.shtm>

Failure to have asbestos inspection conducted, to have any asbestos on site removed by a state licensed asbestos abatement contractor, and the improper disposal of asbestos can result in a fine up to \$10,000.00 for each offense, by state law.

Further information is available by visiting the Texas Department of State Health Services at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/asbestos/default.shtm>

Fines for violating the asbestos rules can be up to \$10,000.00 per violation.