

Policy on the Disposal of Friable Waste Asbestos

Identification

Friable waste asbestos is asbestos waste that is easily crumbled or asbestos waste in the form of dust.

Most friable waste asbestos is generated when insulation or fireproofing material containing asbestos is removed from buildings. The asbestos fibres become hazardous if released by product deterioration, cutting, sanding or other disturbances.

Methods of identifying materials containing asbestos include:

1. Obtaining a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) from a supplier of the material.
2. Asking a supplier to state in writing whether or not the material contains asbestos if a MSDS is not available.
3. Submitting a sample to a commercial laboratory for analysis.

Target Groups

This information is provided to advise households, businesses and service companies of the procedures and regulations involved in the handling of waste asbestos to protect the public and the environment through proper disposal.

Environmental Implications

Health hazards from asbestos occur mainly in the workplace through inhalation of air contaminated with asbestos fibres. Exposure to the asbestos fibres increases the risk of a lung disease called "asbestosis." Outside the workplace there is no documentation to support that environmental exposure to asbestos occurs at levels that induce asbestosis.

Policy

Friable waste asbestos materials must be secured in an approved manner that will prevent atmospheric dispersion of the asbestos fibres. This includes double bagging the material. Garbage bags can be used for initial containment and secondary or outer containment should be in a six-mil polyethylene bag that is properly labelled. If the material cannot be bagged without causing further dispersion of the asbestos fibres, the material should be covered while being transported.

Immediate burial of waste asbestos fibres at a landfill approved by Saskatchewan Environment is an acceptable disposal option. Prior arrangements and approval should be completed with the landfill owner prior to disposal. If an asbestos container is ruptured, it should be re-packed prior to burial.

Legislation

- *Saskatchewan's Dangerous Goods Transportation Act and Regulations (DGTA/R)*, pertaining to the handling, offering for transport, transportation and receipt of the friable waste asbestos.
- *Saskatchewan's Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010 (EMPA, 2010)* with respect to *The Municipal Refuse Management Regulations* pertaining to the receipt and disposal of the waste asbestos.
- *Saskatchewan's Occupational Health and Safety Act and Regulations*, pertaining to the protection of employees at the workplace and employees involved in the removal of asbestos.

Disposal Requirements

Friable waste asbestos material can be disposed only at landfills approved by the Ministry of Environment.

More info?

Contact the Saskatchewan
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Client Service Office at
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