

# The Importance of Removing **ASBESTOS** Professionally

*Inhalation of broken asbestos fibers over a long period of time, and coupled with smoking, can lead to lung cancer. Because of its fire resistant and heat insulation qualities, Asbestos was used in many building materials, prior to the 1970s, and as insulation around boilers, boiler pipes, and on furnace ducts. Many old homes may contain asbestos filled insulation around heating and cooking appliances, as well as insulation in walls, roofing, and outside deck materials. However, in our daily lives people may be exposed to small amounts of asbestos and do not develop health problems..*

## Asbestos Control Basics–

- The key to asbestos control is to determine if the material is in good or damaged condition. If in good condition, leave it alone.
- Look for damage such as tears, abrasions, flakes, or water damage.
- If planning house renovation or expansion that might disturb asbestos, have the home checked and sampled for the presence of asbestos materials, then have the repair or removal done by an asbestos professional.
- If the damaged item or area is bigger than your hand, keep it undisturbed.
- Limit access to the area as damaged asbestos fibers can be tracked to living areas by people or pets.

## Asbestos Cleanup Basics–

- Get help from a professional to clean up damaged areas of asbestos in your home. If the asbestos is not damaged, put a protective cover over the asbestos.
- For small items: Wear disposable plastic gloves when discarding small items (i.e., ironing board cover, hot pads and cooking mitts) into sealable plastic bags; toss; and thoroughly wash your hands with water and soap.
- **Do not** sweep, dust, or vacuum asbestos containing debris.
- **Do not** hit, rub, bump, crumble or crush, scrape, sand, or saw materials containing asbestos as released fibers can easily be inhaled and damage one's lungs.



Mineral Fibers that were used  
as heat insulators and are  
resistant to fire = **ASBESTOS**



*Potential Sources of Asbestos which might exist in homes built between 1930-1950:*

### Boilers, Heaters & Oil/Coal Furnaces

- ① Pipe insulation
- ② Insulation around furnace ducts
- ③ Air duct lining and wall gaskets and lining
- ④ Artificial ashes and embers sold for use in gas-fired fireplaces

### Interior/Exterior Surfaces

- ⑤ Deck undersheeting
- ⑥ Roof felt and siding shingles
- ⑦ Blown-in fill or batt insulation
- ⑧ Window putty

- ⑨ Vinyl asbestos sheets, tiles and undersheeting flooring
- ⑩ Sprayed on acoustical ceiling or tiles
- ⑪ Textured paint and patching compounds for walls and ceiling joints
- ⑫ Walls and floors around wood burning stoves using asbestos paper, millboard, or cement sheets

### Appliances & Equipment

- ⑬ Water heater, range hood, clothes dryer, dishwasher, portable heater, refrigerator and freezer
- ⑭ Heat reflectors on wood stoves

- ⑮ Hot water and steam pipes
- ⑯ Hair dryers
- ⑰ Ironing board covers

### Electrical Equipment

- ⑱ Lamp sockets
- ⑲ Outlet and switch boxes
- ⑳ Recessed lighting
- ㉑ Main panel and fuse box

### Miscellaneous

- ㉒ Cat box aggregate of either sand or clay
- ㉓ Fireplace logs
- ㉔ Asbestos hot pads and gloves

