

Is Professional Asbestos Removal The Smart Move?

Asbestos is one of the most controversial topics in the restoration industry. Many questions are circulated regularly. When should asbestos be professionally removed? When should it be encapsulated? Should we do both? What are the pros and cons? In this article, the asbestos contractors at Canada's Restoration System have taken the time to answer some of your lingering questions.

When should asbestos be professionally removed?

Asbestos is a known carcinogen and should be avoided at all costs. Unlike smoking, asbestos is not illegal. But what if you have asbestos in your home? Should it be professionally removed? The simple answer is a definitive yes, professional asbestos removal is always the smart move. While Canadian law permits homeowners to perform an abatement themselves, the removal of friable asbestos is prohibited.

All proper, licensed abatement work is carried out by certified asbestos professionals who comply with the Environmental Protection Act (EPA). EPA licensed contractors are trained to deal with asbestos safely.

What Is Asbestos

Asbestos is a mineral fiber that was widely used from the late 1800s to the 1970s as an insulator in building materials, including drywall and ceiling tiles. Asbestos has been used to insulate and fireproof various buildings, appliances, and other material products that we use on a daily basis. As fibers are released into the air, they can become embedded in our lungs.

Three Types Of Asbestos

To make matters more confusing, there are three types of asbestos: Amphibole, Amphosite, and Chlorite.

1. Amphibole is the only type of asbestos that is strongly associated with causing mesothelioma.
2. Both amphibole and amphibosite asbestos are considered to be human carcinogens by health authorities around the world.
3. In contrast, chlorite (also known as "non-fibrous" or "serpentine") asbestos is generally considered to be noncarcinogenic (we'll get back to this later).

The decision to remove or encapsulate asbestos should be based on a number of factors, including the type of asbestos present, the condition of the material containing the asbestos,

and the potential for exposure. In general, encapsulation is preferable to removal when possible, as it poses a lower risk to both workers and building occupants.

When should Asbestos be encapsulated?

There are a few different schools of thought on when asbestos should be encapsulated. The first school of thought is that asbestos should only be encapsulated if it is in good condition and not deteriorating. The second school of thought is that all asbestos should be encapsulated regardless of its condition. The third school of thought is that asbestos should only be removed if it is in poor condition or if there is a risk of it becoming damaged or disturbed.

The main reason for wanting to encapsulate asbestos instead of removing it is that removal can be quite expensive and disruptive, whereas encapsulation is much less so. In addition, properly performed encapsulation can effectively prevent the release of asbestos fibers into the air, where they can be inhaled and cause health problems.

There are a few things to keep in mind when deciding whether or not to encapsulate asbestos. One is that some types of asbestos are more hazardous than others; amphibole asbestos, for instance, is considered more dangerous than chlorite (also known as "non-fibrous" or "serpentine") asbestos. Another thing to keep in mind is that the condition of the asbestos material in question plays a role in how effective any form of treatment will be; if the material has already deteriorated, for example, removal may be the best option.

Why Professional Asbestos Removal Is Best

Professional asbestos removal is the smartest choice a homeowner can make for a few reasons. First, asbestos fibers can cause serious health problems if inhaled, including lung cancer and mesothelioma. Second, removal can be quite expensive and disruptive, whereas encapsulation is much less so. Third, properly performed encapsulation can effectively prevent the release of asbestos fibers into the air, where they can be inhaled and cause health problems.

If you suspect asbestos in your home, contact Canada's Restoration services at 1-888-551-0514.