

WHAT IS ASBESTOS CEMENT SIDING?

Asbestos cement siding (ACS) are shingles made from a mixture of cement and asbestos aggregate that contains greater than 1% asbestos. ACS has generally been used to cover exterior walls, roofing, and other trim on residential houses and other buildings.

ACS that is in good condition and intact keeps the asbestos fibers bound within the cement shingles and poses no hazard to the homeowner.

However, whenever ACS is disturbed and broken, it can cause asbestos fibers to be released. Asbestos is most dangerous to individuals when fibers are released into the air. If the fibers are inhaled, it can become a hazard to the homeowner. There are no safe levels to asbestos exposure and such exposures could lead to the development of various cancers and other respiratory diseases.

If it is determined that a homeowner has ACS, there are several options they may choose from. The homeowner could simply leave it in place and keep it painted or enclose the material with items such as aluminum or vinyl siding. The homeowner also could remove the ACS themselves or hire an asbestos professional to properly remove and transport the ACS for disposal.

WHERE DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

To find North Carolina accredited asbestos inspectors and supervisors, or for more information, visit our website at: <https://epi.dph.ncdhhs.gov/asbestos/healthaz.html>

Or contact us directly:

Health Hazards Control Unit (HHCU)
1912 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1912
(919) 707-5950

In Buncombe, Forsyth, and Mecklenburg counties, local agencies must also be notified:

Buncombe County: Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency (AB Air Quality) • (828) 250-6777

Forsyth County: Office of Environmental Assistance and Protection • (336) 703-2440

Mecklenburg County: Mecklenburg County Air Quality • (704) 336-5430

For additional information on asbestos:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
www.epa.gov/asbestos



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Public Health

NC Department of Health and Human Services
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Environmental Health Section
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Homeowner's Guide when Removing Asbestos Cement Siding

What Homeowners Should Know in North Carolina



This brochure is a brief overview of North Carolina's guidelines for the homeowner regarding the removal of asbestos cement siding (ACS). Before homeowners become involved in removing ACS, they are encouraged to contact HHCU at (919) 707-5950, to determine if applicable accreditation and permitting requirements apply.



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DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS



Prior to transporting ACS material to the landfill, homeowners should contact their local landfill to know their requirements for accepting asbestos waste. **[Note: ACS waste must be disposed of in a landfill approved to receive asbestos.]**

Check with the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality – Solid Waste Section for a list of approved landfills. The main telephone number is (877) 623-6748.

LAWS AND REGULATIONS

In North Carolina, homeowners may perform their own renovations without any testing or permits; including removing asbestos containing materials such as asbestos cement siding (ACS).

However, the Health Hazards Control Unit (HHCU) strongly encourages homeowners to get suspect materials tested by a North Carolina accredited asbestos inspector before performing any renovation or demolition activity that may disturb asbestos.



Note: 'Homeowner' refers strictly to an owner-occupied, single-family residence in which the owner lives, both prior to and after renovation activities take place.

The State of North Carolina and HHCU assumes no liability or responsibility for injuries, illnesses or related health problems arising from the homeowner performing an asbestos removal project. The homeowner assumes all risk involved.

The Occupational Safety Health Administration (OSHA) regulation applies to all worker protection and work practices associated with any asbestos abatement activity.

[Additional information regarding the removal of asbestos cement siding can be found at 29 CFR 1926.1101(g)(8) (iii)(A-D)]. You can also contact North Carolina OSHA (a Division of NC Department of Labor) at 1-800-625-2267.

GENERAL RULES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

As a homeowner preparing to remove ACS, the objective should be to prevent exposure by keeping asbestos fibers from being released into the air. There are some general requirements and recommendations the homeowner can use to ensure their protection and safety while removing the siding.

Set Up/Containment

Set up a regulated area where ACS may be present. Put up signage warning unauthorized people not to enter the work area. Cover the ground, starting at the base of the wall, with six mil poly and extend several feet out beyond the work area.

Worker Protection

Personal protective equipment (PPE) such as half-face HEPA respirators, disposable coveralls, gloves, goggles, and rubber boots should be worn to prevent personal exposure to asbestos. Be careful not to contaminate areas outside your work area. **[Note: Prior to wearing a half-face respirator, contact your personal physician to determine if you are medically fit to safely wear a respirator.]**

Wetting ACS Material

Using a hose or garden sprayer, spray water to wet the ACS. A homeowner can also add dishwashing liquid to a pump sprayer when wetting ACS.

Removal (Some Do's)

- Before removal, be sure to keep children and pets from the work area.
- Keep doors and windows closed near work area.
- Cut nail heads or gently pry nails from the ACS.
- Working from top to bottom, remove ACS in whole pieces as much as possible, to minimize breakage.
- Carefully lower ACS to the ground in whole pieces.
- Double bag ACS and place in asbestos labeled bag and/or cardboard box.
- Dispose of ACS in an approved landfill.

Removal (Some Don'ts)

- **Do Not** cut, sand, saw, or abrade ACS.
- **Do Not** use tools such as a hoe, spud/digging bar, or hammer to break the ACS into multiple pieces.
- **Do Not** drop or throw ACS.
- **Do Not** place loose ACS in the back of a pick-up or dump truck.