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YST – 128(a) Tribal response/Brownfields Program

What Is Asbestos?

Asbestos is an inexpensive, fire-retardant material. Asbestos was used extensively in home construction from the early 1940’s through the 1970’s. Prolonged exposure to asbestos fibers can lead to lung disease. When asbestos is inhaled, abrasive fibers damage lung tissue and can cause cancer. Asbestos can be found in all types of household materials including:

* Vinyl floor tiles
* Glue that attaches floor tile
* Some types of linoleum
* Siding material
* Plaster
* Some forms of paint.

What You Can Do To Prevent Asbestos Exposure.

If you find asbestos in good condition, its best to leave it alone. Asbestos exposure happens when the material has been damaged.

asbestos

Environmental Protection Program Staff:

YST 128(a) Tribal Response Program/Brownfields

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Handling and Storage

* Visually inspect the materials from time to time to determine if there is deterioration or damage.
* Do Not use power tools to remove the damaged item.
* Do Not use compressed air
* Do Not use abrasive cutting or sanding discs
* Always work with asbestos in well-ventilated areas
* Always ensure the material is thoroughly wet down and kept wet while working with asbestos to minimize the release of fibers and dust particles.

If you think you have asbestos you can purchase a Do It Yourself Test Kit from a local hardware store.

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