



# **Technical Course**

Session 2

**“Dealing With Asbestos”**



## **Where is Asbestos Found?**

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral fiber. In the past, asbestos was added to a variety of products to strengthen them and to provide heat insulation and fire resistance. These products include ceiling textures, vinyl floor coverings and black mastic, boiler and pipe insulation, heating and cooling duct insulation ceiling tile, roofing products, clapboard shingles etc. Products that contain asbestos are generally known as “Asbestos Containing Material” (ACM).



## **How do I explain the health risks associated with asbestos to a customer?**

If the customer thinks they may have ACM in their home, they should not panic. Generally, undisturbed ACM, in good condition, will not release asbestos fibers. According to the EPA website, the best thing to do is to leave ACM that is in good condition alone.

However, when ACM's are damaged or disturbed by repair, remodeling or demolition activities – microscopic fibers can become airborne and may be inhaled into the lungs, resulting in significant health problems.

# **Does the age of a home determine if asbestos is potentially present?**

Typically ACM's are found in houses built prior to 1980. However, building of any age may contain asbestos. Therefore, regulations regarding mandatory testing of potential ACM's vary.



**If the customer wants vinyl tile removed in an older home, should the customer be advised to have the flooring tested for asbestos prior to removal?**

According to the EPS website, the best thing to do is to leave ACM, when in good condition, alone. However, if the customer wants the vinyl removed and is unsure whether or not the material contains asbestos, the customer should be advised to consider hiring a professional asbestos inspector to sample and test the material.

**NOTE:**

***USIG is not authorized to perform ACM sample collection, testing or abatement activities, nor will we refer a customer to a professional inspector.***



**Customer has had the material professionally tested (and deemed negative for asbestos) or professionally abated. Can we complete the installation?**

YES, but first – Customer must read and date the acknowledgement of change and Waiver of Liability Form before the job is restarted. A copy of the signed form must be held in our records.



**Addendum to Home Improvement Agreement  
Acknowledgement of Remediation: Environmental Hazards**

Customer's Last Name, First Name

Store No.

Order No.

By signing below, You acknowledge that You understand and agree that:

1. With Your signature, this Addendum will be attached to and will become a part of the existing Home Improvement Agreement in reference to the Order and Store Numbers indicated above between You and Home Depot U.S.A., Inc.
2. This Addendum applies because, while preparing to provide the services described in the Home Improvement Agreement referenced above, the Home Depot Authorized Installation Professional identified conditions that, in his or her professional opinion, could potentially indicate the presence of mold, asbestos, or lead paint.
3. Installation Professional has informed You and shown You the location of the potential mold, asbestos, or lead paint condition and has recommended that You seek the services of a contractor who is properly trained and authorized to perform all tasks necessary to remove, cleanup, dispose, and otherwise remediate the mold, asbestos, or lead paint, and any other materials necessary, in accordance with all applicable laws.
4. You have hired a mold, asbestos, or lead paint remediation contractor who has completed the necessary remediation, and You are prepared for installer to return to Your home and complete the work described in the Home Improvement Agreement referenced above.

By signing below, You further agree that You and Your successors and assigns waive and agree not to pursue against Home Depot or The Home Depot Authorized Installation Professional or any of their successors or assigns any claims or lawsuits, including but not limited to personal injury claims, property damage claims, regulatory actions, or any other lawsuits or legal actions of any type arising from or in any way related to mold, asbestos, or lead paint related to installation services ("Installation") specified in the Home Improvement Agreement referenced above.

By signing below, You also acknowledge that You understand and agree that this Addendum together with the Home Improvement Agreement referenced above (collectively, "this Agreement") and any associated Change Orders now constitutes the entire agreement or understanding between You and Home Depot in reference to the Order and Store Numbers indicated above and may only be amended by a Change Order signed and authorized by Home Depot and You. This Agreement expressly supersedes all prior written or verbal negotiations, agreements, or representations made by Home Depot, Installer, or anyone else. Except as expressly set forth in this Agreement, You agree there are no express or implied oral or written representations or inducements in any way conditioning this Agreement, and You expressly disclaim their existence. Do not sign if blank or incomplete. By signing, You acknowledge that You have read, understand, and accept this Agreement in its entirety. You further acknowledge receiving a complete copy. Keep it to protect Your legal rights.

Accepted by:

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Customer's Signature

Submitted by:  Home Depot Associate  
 Professional on Home Depot's Behalf

Associate/Representative: PRINT Your Name and Check Applicable Box Above

Professional's Full Business/Trade Name, Address and License No. or Nos. as Applicable:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Professional's Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Professional's Full Signature  
Please PRINT Your Salesperson's License No. if Applicable

Home Depot U.S.A. Inc., 2455 Paces Ferry Road, N.W., Bldg. B.3, Atlanta, Georgia 30339

HD-112 (1/25/05)

DISTRIBUTION: White—Home Depot Copy Yellow—Customer Copy Pink—Installation Professional Copy





**During an installation, the technician discovers material that MAY contain asbestos in the customer's home.**  
**What are the next steps?**

The technician/facility should ask the customer if they have had any asbestos evaluations or surveys in the work area and use this information to determine manageability. A manageable condition is one where the job can be preformed and completed without disturbing any ACM.

If the condition is manageable, the tech/facility should follow the steps below:

- 1) Tell the customer about the presumed ACM, explain that the install will be completed without disturbing the material, and proceed with the installations.
  
- 2) Document all steps in HIM.

**If the condition in the home is NOT manageable, what are the next steps?**

The technician/facility should tell the customer about the condition and advise that sampling, testing and /or abatement are NOT within our scope of work. The technician will not continue with the install at this time but will secure the jobsite and leave it in a safe condition. The customer should be told that we will continue the installation once the presumed ACM has been professionally tested and deemed negative for asbestos or professionally abated. The facility should also notify the store and note the job in HIM



## Examples of Vinyl Asbestos Tile (VAT)



If a customer wants more information on asbestos in their home and related health concerns, they should visit the EPA website at:

<http://www.epa.gov/asbestos/pubs/ashome.html>