



ZURICH®

TRY AVOIDING

ASBESTOS PENALTIES

When anyone is exposed to asbestos on a construction site, general contractors or asbestos removal contractors can be exposed to lawsuits, hefty damages or costly fines. Strict compliance to OSHA's asbestos removal standard (CFR 1926.1101) can be one of the best defenses. When handling asbestos on a construction site consider these OSHA-recommended best practices:



DO THIS



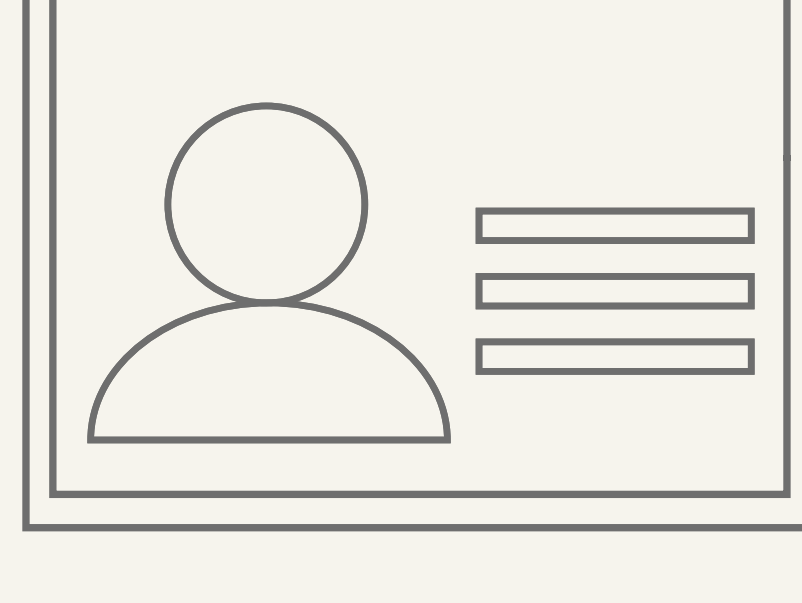
NOT THAT

MONITOR THE HAZARD AREA



Select a supervisor who can identify asbestos hazards, establish control strategies and have a constant presence on site.

BEGIN WORK WITHOUT A QUALIFIED SUPERVISOR



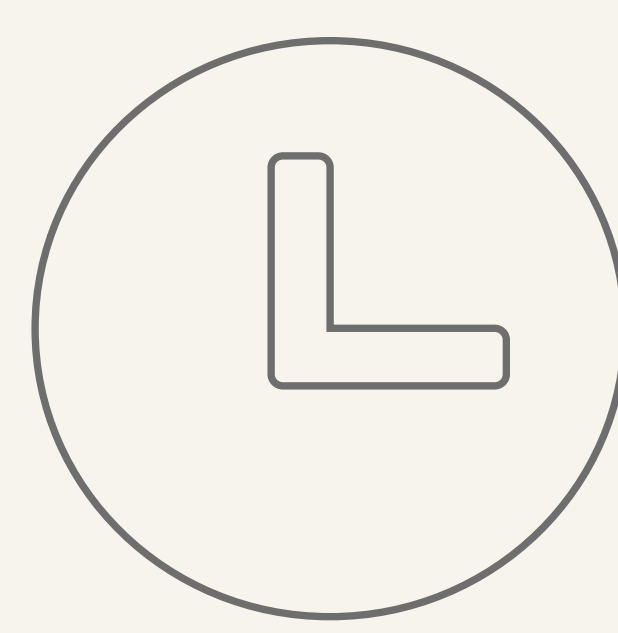
Always select a supervisor prior to the project's start—not when a problem arises. Also, verify the supervisor's credentials before work begins—ensuring he or she has been properly trained to handle asbestos per EPA standards.

COMMUNICATE HAZARDS



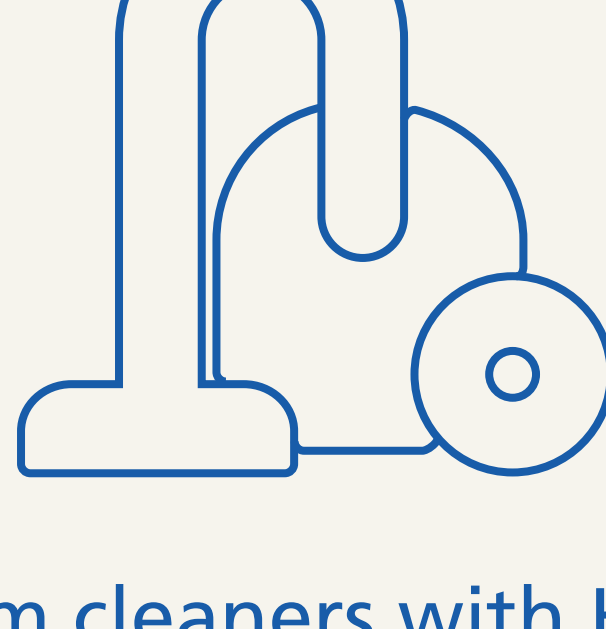
Notify tenants and employees that are next to the hazard area of the work's nature, the location and quantity of asbestos-containing material or presumed asbestos-containing material, and the precautions being taken to confine this material.

DELAY NOTIFICATION



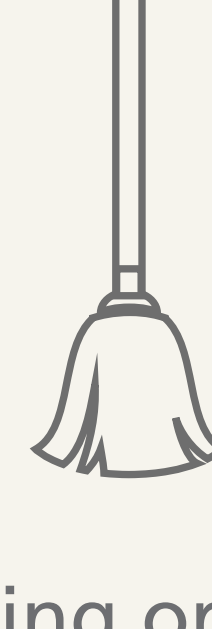
Communicate known hazards within 24 hours of discovering asbestos-containing material or presumed asbestos-containing material on a worksite.

REMOVE ASBESTOS WITH SUITABLE TOOLS AND METHODS



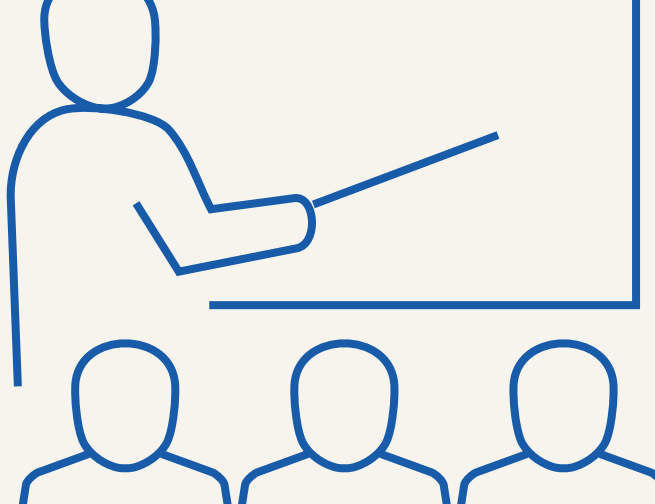
Use vacuum cleaners with HEPA filters for cleanup, as well as wet methods or wetting agents when handling, mixing, removing, cutting and cleaning up the hazard area unless infeasible due to creation of other hazards.

USE CLEANING TECHNIQUES THAT MIGHT INCREASE DUST



Avoid dry sweeping or shoveling as well as high speed abrasive disc saws that are not equipped with point of cut ventilator or enclosures with HEPA-filtered exhaust air.

CUSTOMIZE WORKER TRAINING



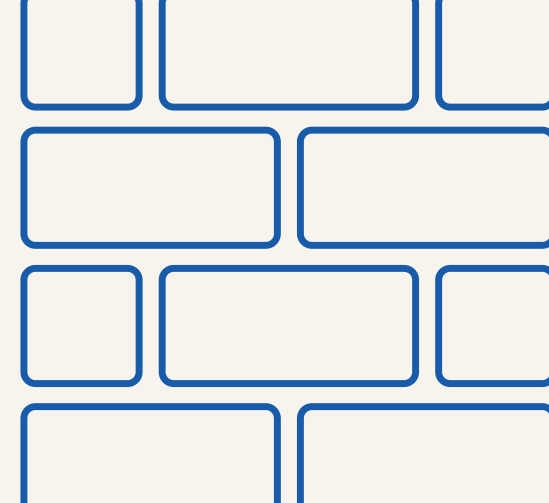
All training should address basic information like appropriate work practices for the job, medical surveillance program requirements and the health effects of such work. Be sure you're offering the required level of training by the EPA for certain classes of work.

FAIL TO PROVIDE TRAINING MATERIALS



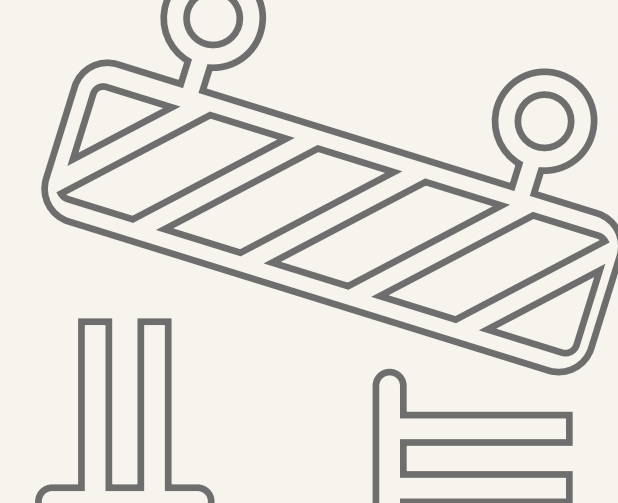
Supplement your training courses with free written materials relating to your asbestos training program, OSHA's asbestos removal standard (CFR 1926.1101) and self-help smoking cessation program materials like those found at smokefree.gov.

ESTABLISH BARRIERS



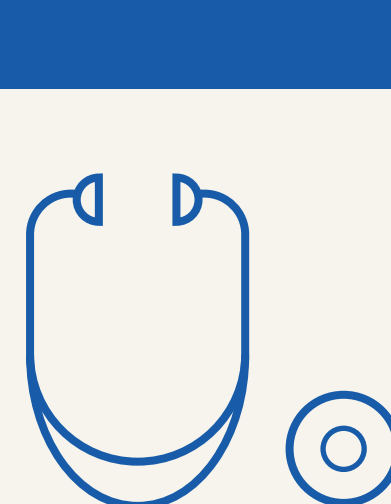
Mark off regulated area with large, impermeable drop cloths or plastic sheets to contain the dust, and surround it with jersey barriers or concrete barriers. Also, signage should be posted at the entrance with OSHA-required language.

FAIL TO INSPECT BARRIERS



Inspect signs and barriers daily to ensure they are still visible, in place, and have not fallen down or been obstructed. Using strong barriers—instead of "CAUTION tape"—should help to better control access.

ENCOURAGE MEDICAL MONITORING



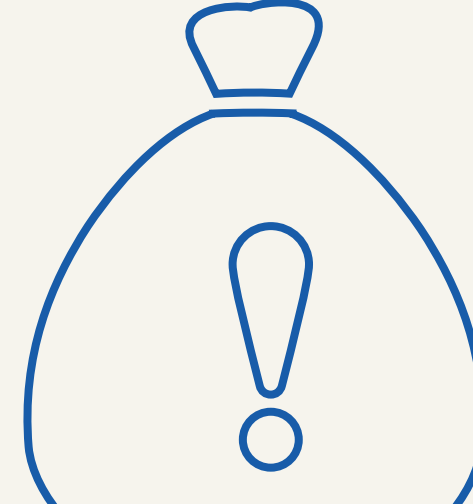
Provide physician examinations free of charge to workers. Ensure the examinations are offered at reasonable times and locations for workers.

PREMATURELY DESTROY RECORDS



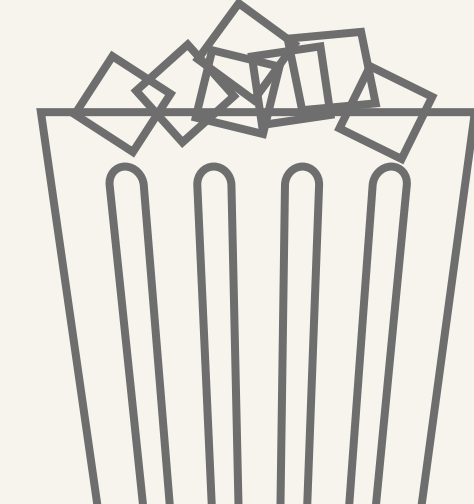
Keep a worker's records for 30 years commencing with last date of employment.

PROPERLY CONTAIN WASTE



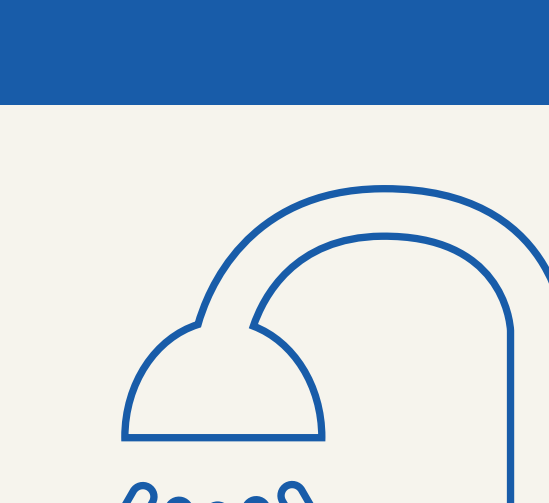
Provide workers with sealed, leak-tight, and properly labeled containers to dispose of contaminated wastes from walls and floors. Any products or containers containing asbestos (including waste containers) must have OSHA-required labels.

LEAVE STORAGE CONTAINERS OUT IN THE OPEN



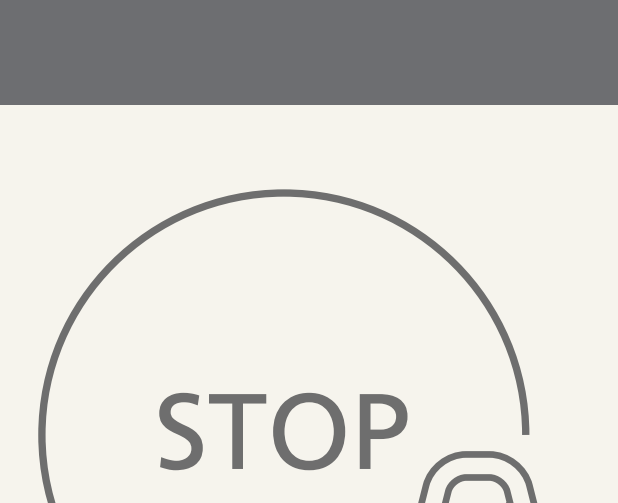
Help reduce exposure to asbestos by designating a secure area to store asbestos. The storage area should be isolated from other working areas and barricaded. Don't stack asbestos waste more than three bags high.

ESTABLISH A CLEAR DECONTAMINATION AREA



Worker decontamination area must be directly adjacent and connected to asbestos-hazard zone. It should include an equipment area, shower area and clean change room.

PERMIT LAX ACCESS POLICIES



Prevent protected workers from entering or exiting through any egress other than the established decontamination area. Prohibit workers from exiting the decontamination area with contaminated clothing or equipment still in-tact.

* Complete standards (29 CFR Part 1926.1101) can be found at www.osha.gov. The information in this publication was compiled from sources believed to be reliable for informational purposes only. All sample policies and procedures herein should serve as a guideline, which you can use to create your own policies and procedures. We trust that you will customize these samples to reflect your own operations and believe that these samples may serve as a helpful platform for this endeavor. Any and all information contained herein is not intended to constitute legal advice and accordingly, you should consult with your own attorneys when developing programs and policies. We do not guarantee the accuracy of this information or any results and further assume no liability in connection with this publication and sample policies and procedures, including any information, methods or safety suggestions contained herein. Moreover, Zurich reminds you that this cannot be assumed to contain every acceptable safety and compliance procedure or that additional procedures might not be appropriate under the circumstances. The subject matter of this publication is not tied to any specific insurance product nor will adopting these policies and procedures ensure coverage under any insurance policy.
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