



Compliance Advisory

February 28, 2012

Asbestos Cement (Transite) Siding and Roofing

This Advisory is provided to inform you about activities of the Air District which may affect your operation. It is intended to assist you in your effort to achieve and maintain compliance with applicable air pollution regulations.

ATTENTION: HOMEOWNERS, PROPERTY MANAGERS, CONTRACTORS AND BUILDING DEPARTMENTS

SUBJECT: REMOVAL OF ASBESTOS CEMENT (TRANSITE) SIDING AND ROOFING PRODUCTS

Siding and roofing products made of cement mixed with asbestos are commonly referred to as transite and are common in the Bay Area. These products are considered a Category II asbestos-containing material under both the Federal (NESHAP) and Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District) asbestos regulations. When it is intact and in good condition, Category II asbestos-containing materials are not considered a regulated asbestos-containing material (RACM).

However, weathering and improper removal practices (e.g., cutting, abrading, hammering, sanding, grinding, "shotblasting," abrading, dropping from a significant height or other methods that lead to breakage) can result in the release of asbestos fibers to the air. These damaging activities may render the material "friable;" it is then deemed RACM and is subject to regulation under the Federal and Air District rules. Note that demolition of any structure containing these materials is always considered RACM and is subject to these regulations.

The following include, but are not limited to, proper handling practices which are recommended to ensure that transite roofing and siding materials are not rendered friable during the removal process:

- Place 6-mil polyethylene sheeting under the removal area to collect any debris.
- The material should be misted and kept damp throughout the removal/bagging process.
- Removed materials should be immediately placed in a 6-mil (or greater strength) plastic bag.
- Avoid breaking up roofing or siding. Work slowly to keep breakage to a minimum.
- Lower materials to the ground, keeping panels or shingles intact. Do not drop or throw them.
- For areas that cannot be reached from the ground, scaffolding may be required as this is generally a "two-handed" operation that cannot be done on a ladder.
- "Double-bag" all waste (roofing, siding, personal protective equipment, tools and any other items that have come in contact with asbestos materials) in 6-mil (or greater strength) plastic bags.
- All waste must be disposed at an appropriate landfill that accepts asbestos-containing materials. Call the landfill prior to transporting the waste. The type of waste accepted at landfills differs and is subject to change. See the following for landfills in the Bay Area:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/land_disposal/walist.shtml

Note: most landfills listed in "Region 2" are within the Air District boundaries.

There is no safe level of asbestos exposure. The intent of these recommended practices is to avoid asbestos fiber releases to the air during removals and to maintain compliance with asbestos regulations. *Please note that these practices do not address personal protective requirements or worker safety issues.*

Improper removals may lead to asbestos exposure, public health risks, regulatory penalties and potential civil suits by members of the public. The Air District recommends hiring a licensed asbestos contractor for this type of removal to ensure the material is handled appropriately. See <http://www.dir.ca.gov/Databases/doshacru/acruList.asp> for listings of asbestos contractors.

More information can be obtained from the following sources:



For questions regarding this Advisory contact: Brent Rudin, Supervising Air Quality Specialist at (415) 749-5128.



For questions about asbestos notifications, contact an Asbestos Technician at (415) 749-4762.



For compliance assistance, call the Compliance Counselor Hotline at (415) 749-4999



For a copy of this Advisory, see www.baaqmd.gov/advisories.



For a copy of Regulation 11, Rule 2: Asbestos Demolition, Renovation and Manufacturing, see www.baaqmd.gov/rules.

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