

# Asbestos Awareness

## Asbestos Safety Talk

### Health Alert

Disturbing Asbestos Containing Materials (ACM) has the potential to release asbestos fibers into the air, which can be detrimental to your health.

Damaged ACM also has the potential to release asbestos fibers into the air. ACM are often damaged by impact from objects such as doors, tools or ladders. Damage can also occur when friable materials become wet.



No University of Chicago  
Employee Shall  
Disturb or Remove ACM.

### Asbestos Containing Materials

- Surfacing Materials
  - Plaster
  - Spray-on Fireproofing
- Thermal System Insulation
  - Pipe lagging
  - Pipe wrap
  - Tank Insulation
  - Joint mud
- Miscellaneous Materials
  - Floor tile
  - Floor tile mastic
  - Ceiling tile
  - Lab benches
  - Transite fume hoods

### Friable Vs. Non-Friable

**Friable** materials can be crumbled or reduced to powder by hand pressure. Friable ACM has the potential to release fibers into the air readily when disturbed.



**Non-Friable** materials do not crumble or reduce to powder by hand pressure but can release fibers when taken from its natural state.

### Factors Which Increase Your Risk of Asbestos Diseases

Quantity and Duration of Exposure – People who are exposed to high levels of asbestos for long periods of time have a higher risk of developing asbestos related disease.

Smoking and asbestos exposure can cause a synergistic effect. The synergistic effect is a combined action of two substances whose total effect is greater than the sum of each substance's separate effect.

### Diseases associated with asbestos exposure:

- Asbestosis
- Mesothelioma
- Lung Cancer
- Digestive System Cancers

### Notify Safety!!

If you come upon suspect materials or materials that have been damaged, call Safety at 702-9999.

To request asbestos abatement, submit an Asbestos Abatement Request Form that can be found at:  
<http://safety.uchicago.edu>  
Safety Manual Link  
Section 6.5 –  
Asbestos Policy