

# CBS Corporate Safety and Environmental Affairs

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## *Asbestos Abatement*

Asbestos-containing materials were used extensively in many public and commercial buildings constructed before 1981. Asbestos products were used for heat insulation, fire proofing, and sound absorption. Some examples of asbestos-containing materials that could be present at your location are:

- Roofing and siding shingles
- Vinyl floor tiles
- Plaster, cement, putties, and caulking
- Ceiling tiles and spray-on coatings
- Pipe insulation

When left intact, undisturbed, and in good condition, asbestos does not pose a health risk to building occupants. However, there is a potential for exposure when asbestos becomes damaged and is disturbed to the extent that the asbestos fibers become airborne and are inhaled. Asbestos fibers in floor tile are much less likely to become airborne unless the tile or mastic (glue) is mechanically abraded, such as by sanding.

Any type of renovation or remodeling has the potential to disturb the asbestos and cause problems. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends in-place management whenever asbestos is discovered. Rather than removing the asbestos, an effective in-place management program will control fiber releases, particularly when the materials are not significantly damaged and are not likely to be disturbed.

Please contact Corporate Safety and Environmental Affairs before you begin any remodeling and/or renovation projects in buildings constructed before 1981 and any time work or activities may result in the disturbance or removal of asbestos or materials presumed to be asbestos. Do not attempt the removal on your own. The EPA and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), along with state and local authorities, regulate asbestos abatement procedures. Adherence to these regulations is important to ensure protection of workers, building occupants, and the environment.

Please contact David Templeman ([David.Templeman@cbs.com](mailto:David.Templeman@cbs.com)) or 412-642-5055 with any questions or for additional information.

### Revised Underground Storage Tank (UST) Regulations

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently finalized revisions to the federal underground storage tank regulations.

The revisions include:

- Adding secondary containment requirements for new and replaced tanks and piping
- Adding operator training requirements
- Adding periodic operation and maintenance requirements for UST systems
- Adding requirements to ensure UST system compatibility before storing certain biofuel blends
- Removing past deferrals for emergency generator tanks
- Adding new release prevention and detection technologies
- Updating codes of practice
- Updating state program approval requirements to incorporate these new changes

For more information regarding these changes or other tank questions, please contact Peter von Schondorf at [pvonschondorf@leaderlink.com](mailto:pvonschondorf@leaderlink.com)