



# MEMORANDUM

**To:** UBC Faculty, Staff and Students  
UBC Building Safety Committees

**From:** Guy Champagne, Health & Safety Associate Facilities, Safety & Risk Services

**Date:** March 30, 2023

**Subject:** Asbestos Containing Materials in UBC Buildings

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## Asbestos Containing Materials in UBC Buildings

In response to enquiries from Faculty, Staff, and Students I am prompted to write this brief memorandum regarding the presence of asbestos containing materials in UBC Buildings.

Various types of Asbestos Containing Materials are present in UBC Buildings constructed prior to 1985 and up to 1994 for mechanical systems gaskets and duct mastics. In 1985 the University mandated that asbestos containing construction materials not be used in any new building. In the early 1990's the university undertook an inventory of all buildings and asbestos materials within them. The university also established the Asbestos Management Program (AMP) and instituted a labeling system identifying the location of asbestos containing materials (ACM's) within each room of building's with asbestos containing materials on campus. This memo provides a brief overview of some key asbestos related topics:

## Asbestos Containing Materials (ACM's) on campus

Any manufactured product containing 0.5% or greater, asbestos is defined as an asbestos containing material under Workers Compensation Board (WCB) of British Columbia Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) Regulations. Examples of such materials used in construction at UBC include:

- Drywall Joint Compound (Drywall) and Plaster
- Floor Tiles and Linoleum
- Mechanical Insulation
- Fume Hood linings and Exhaust Pipes
- A myriad of smaller materials such as fire stop, glazing putty, and mastics

Strict OH&S regulations deal with the disturbance (defined as either accidental, or intentional, alteration of a materials original intact state) of Asbestos Containing Materials. UBC Facilities, Secure Access and IT AV staffs are knowledgeable in the hazards of asbestos, and are trained in appropriate safe handling procedures.

There is an expectation that general contractors brought onto campus and working in the vicinity of ACM's are knowledgeable regarding the hazards but are prevented from handling asbestos materials at UBC.

## Building Surveys

Each building on campus constructed prior to 1995 was surveyed for ACM's and a room-by-room report compiled. These reports are retained by the UBC Asbestos Management Program (AMP) and updated when materials are removed or materials are found that were not accessible during original survey.

## Asbestos Door Stickers

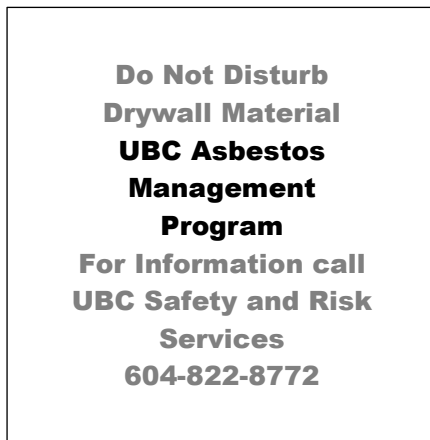
The University has developed a door sticker information system by which the location of asbestos materials within the room can be determined. Stickers are located on the edge of the entrance door. The following stickers are employed at UBC: Please note that some stickers may be missing if a recently renovation occurred.

**Inspected  
By  
UBC Asbestos  
Management  
Program  
For Information call  
UBC Safety and Risk  
Services  
604-822-8772**

## Asbestos Information system - Inspection Sticker

In general, these rooms do not contain suspect asbestos materials. Users should be aware that this inspection refers only to the visible and accessible construction materials within a room; ceiling, wall, and floor finishes, and will not take into account materials such as Fire Stop, Glazing Putty, or Mastic materials or hidden materials behind walls and ceilings that are only accessible if renovation or demolition occurs.

In many campus rooms the only suspect asbestos containing material is present within the drywall. These rooms have been labeled with the following sticker.



## Asbestos Information system – Drywall Sticker

Many door stickers have numbers reflecting the location of ACM. The keycard (below) may be used to determine where the asbestos products are in a given room.

**EXAMPLE**

**4** BELOW FLOOR AREAS CONTAMINATED WITH ASBESTOS, SPECIAL ENTRY PROCEDURES REQUIRED.

**5** ASBESTOS ON VISABLE PIPING AND/OR DUCTING. DO NOT DISTURB.

**T** CLASS D2: POISONOUS AND INFECTIOUS MATERIALS MATERIALS CAUSING OTHER TOXIC EFFECTS

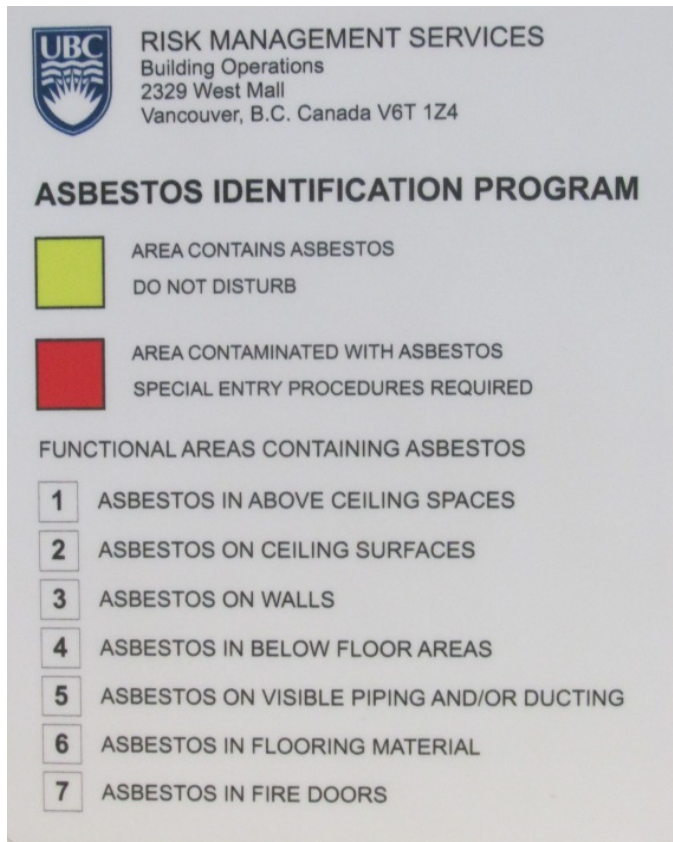
For information call  
**UBC ASBESTOS  
MANAGEMENT  
604-822-8772**

**COMMON ASBESTOS  
CONTAINING MATERIALS**

- FIREPROOFING OR THERMAL SPRAY
- PIPE INSULATION (PRE- FORMED OR BLOCK)
- TEXTILES (PIPE COVERING FELTS, FIRE BLANKETS)
- CEMENTITIOUS PRODUCTS, (DRAIN PIPES, TRANSITE PANELS)
- PAPER PRODUCTS (MILLBOARD, INDENTED, CORRUGATED HIGH TEMP)

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT THE  
UBC ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT  
604-822-8772

## Asbestos Information System – Sticker



### Responsibilities:

Among other things the Asbestos Management Program is responsible for:

- Providing technical, and administrative standards for UBC.
- Inspection, asbestos bulk sampling, assessment, and identification of asbestos-containing material within UBC buildings.
- Maintaining current inventory of asbestos containing building products at UBC.
- Maintenance of the door label information system.

## UBC Departments and Local Safety Committee's are responsible for:

- Ensuring that the university employees and students that they represent are instructed on the Asbestos Management Program and the Asbestos Information System.
- Reporting damaged or degraded materials within their building to the Asbestos Management Program at 604-822-8772 or e-mail Guy Champagne at [guy.champagne@ubc.ca](mailto:guy.champagne@ubc.ca)
- Ensuring that employee's questions and concerns regarding asbestos are properly addressed.
- Maintaining records of all asbestos related issues in which they are involved in the form of safety committee meeting minutes.

## Resources

Safety & Risk Services Website: <https://srs.ubc.ca/asbestos>

The website provides a good generalized summary of asbestos (Asbestos Alert), health hazards, door labels, and building materials at UBC.

### The UBC Asbestos Management Program:

Currently managed by Guy Champagne, questions regarding asbestos at UBC may be directed to the program at 604-822-8772 or e-mail [guy.champagne@ubc.ca](mailto:guy.champagne@ubc.ca)

### UBC Koerner Library:

UBC Koerner Library currently stocks a video titled "Asbestos at UBC" which was produced by the AMP and The Media Group. Though slightly geared towards Building Operations Workers this 15-minute video provides an excellent overview of the Asbestos Management Program at UBC.

If you have any further questions, please contact me at 604-822-8772.

### Guy Champagne CHSC

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