

Alpine Glass Inc.

Safe Work Practice

ASBESTOS

General:

Asbestos is a generic name for a group of naturally occurring minerals that are characterized by a fibrous structure. These include:

Chrysotile – white asbestos

Crocidolite – bluish asbestos

Amosite – brown asbestos

Fibrous varieties of anthophyllite, tremolite and actinolite

Asbestos is harmful to the lungs. It may cause scarring (asbestosis), lung lining scarring (pleural scarring), cancer of the lung lining (mesothelioma) and lung cancer. Time lapse before the disease becomes evident can vary between 20-40 years. Workers who smoke have a 15 – 20 times greater risk of lung cancer from asbestos exposure than those who don't smoke.

The high strength, flexibility, heat and chemical resistance, and frictional properties of asbestos led to its widespread use in electrical insulation, high strength asbestos cement products, pipe covering, floor tiling, drywall joint filler, roofing materials, asphalt and may be present in vermiculite. A good measure of the hazard posed by asbestos is its friability – the ease with which it can be crumbled or pulverized. Products with “bound” asbestos do not pose a hazard unless they are disturbed by cutting, sawing or grinding as an example.

Key Safety Practices:

1. Prior to commencing any work on an existing structure suspected of containing hazardous materials an assessment and written report by professional consultants trained in the identification and treatment of hazardous materials shall be obtained for the site.
2. **Alpine Glass Inc. is not generally responsible for the contracting of professional consultants and abatement contractors as this would fall to the General Contractor or Owner(s). Our employees do not remove hazardous materials.**
3. Prior to any Alpine Glass Inc. employee(s) entering parts of buildings that had contained hazardous materials a written clearance shall be obtained from the consultant monitoring the removal and disposal.
4. If workers unexpectedly discover a material in the area where they are working and believe that it may be asbestos they must stop work, secure the area and alert their immediate supervisor as quickly as possible.
5. The immediate supervisor will take actions including alerting workers to the presence of the material and removing the workers from the environment where the exposure may occur.
6. The General Contractor or Owner(s) shall arrange for specialty asbestos professionals to inspect the hazard and provide a Health and Safety Plan through written instructions as to the required abatement and safe work practice for material handling and removal.

Additional Hazards Discussed:

Additional Instructions:
