



**REX**  
ENVIRONMENTAL

# TESTING & CONSULTING

# Asbestos | Mold | Lead

Rex Environmental offers comprehensive environmental testing and consulting services for a wide range of projects from individual contracts to large multi-site jobs. Our fully licensed and accredited inspectors will expedite your project and help resolve any questions or concerns you may have.

Rex Environmental is a trusted resource for commercial and government property owners needing to reduce liability and manage regulatory compliance. With decades of experience advising property owners, building managers, schools, and contractors on how to assess and mitigate environmental risks, we can take care of all your environmental issues.

## PROJECT SOLUTIONS

Rex Environmental is a leader in the field of the environmental testing and consulting. Decades of experience advising families, schools, building managers, and government agencies on issues of industrial hygiene means that we can respond decisively to identify and mitigate your environmental risks. Our mission is to find the most economical solution that will achieve the best "in compliance" results for each customer.

## OUR SPECIALTY

Rex inspectors are trained and licensed to identify potentially hazardous materials within your physical environment, our specialized team of consultants will listen to your concerns, observe your environment, identify the appropriate tests for any potential issues, and collect air and bulk samples for laboratory testing.

We will send you a tailored, comprehensive report via email that gives a clear description and explanation of the laboratory data in terminology that's easily understood by all. You will have all information necessary to make the right choices to create a healthy environment and comply with state and federal regulations.

## WHAT IS ASBESTOS?

Asbestos is a naturally-occurring fibrous mineral that has been found to cause asbestosis, mesothelioma, and lung cancer. Asbestos fibers are strong and highly heat resistant, which proved useful for many industrial and residential purposes, but they are very dangerous when made "friable" and released into the air and inhaled. In fact, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) states that there is "no safe exposure limit" for asbestos.

## WHERE IS ASBESTOS IN MY HOME?

If your house/apartment was built before the 1980's, there is a high probability that asbestos is in your home. The good news is that as long as you're not planning to make changes to your home that require disturbing the asbestos, it might be best just to leave the material alone. However, if disturbed, virtually invisible asbestos fibers can be inhaled and cause cancer. Asbestos can be found in ceilings, walls, floors, insulation, siding, and/or roofing materials.

## WHY IS ASBESTOS A HAZARD?

Asbestos is made up of microscopic bundles of fibers that may become airborne when disturbed. If these fibers get into the air, they can be inhaled into the lungs where they may cause significant health problems. Researchers still have not determined a "safe level" of exposure but we do know that the higher the concentration of fibers and the longer the exposure, the greater the risk of contracting an asbestos-related disease.

# Asbestos Health Hazards

- **Asbestosis** - A lung disease that causes scarring of the lungs. Eventually, this scarring may become so severe that the lungs cannot function. The latency period (meaning the time between the exposure and the onset of disease) is often 25-40 years.
- **Mesothelioma** - A cancer of the lining of the lung and chest and/or the lining of the abdominal wall. Asbestos exposure is one of the few causes of this cancer. The latency period for mesothelioma is often 15-50 years.
- **Lung Cancer** — Lung cancer can be caused by exposure to asbestos. A person has a much greater chance (50 to 84 times greater) of developing lung cancer if they are exposed to asbestos and they smoke. Cancer of the gastrointestinal tract can also be caused by asbestos exposure. The latency period for these cancers is often 15-30 years.

Despite the common misconception, exposure to asbestos fibers does not cause headaches, upper respiratory irritation or other immediate symptoms. As mentioned above, the effects often go unnoticed for 15-50 years.

## WHEN IS ASBESTOS A HAZARD?

Asbestos containing materials (ACM) in good condition should not pose a hazard to building occupants. If these materials can be maintained in good condition, it is recommended that they be left alone and periodic surveillance performed to monitor their condition. It is only when ACM is damaged or disturbed that it becomes a hazard. When the materials become damaged, or disturbed the fibers separate and may then become airborne. In the asbestos industry, the term '**Friable**' is used to describe an ACM that can be reduced to powder by hand pressure. '**Non-friable**' means an (ACM) that is too hard to be reduced to powder by hand pressure. Mechanical grinding, sanding and dry-buffing are some ways of causing non-friable materials to become friable (air born).



## IT'S DANGEROUS AND ILLEGAL TO IMPROPERLY DISTURB ACM

**You may be subject to State and Federal Regulations requiring an inspection for testing:** Avoid penalties and delays in your project. If you are impacting/disturbing asbestos containing material you must have your project inspected by a Colorado certified asbestos building inspector before commencing work. **Avoid contaminating your property or causing a spill.**

▶ **Buildings of any age may contain ACM;** even those newly built may have ACM. Proper testing by a certified and licensed building inspector is required by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

▶ **Inspections:** If the structures/components are to be disturbed, they must be inspected by a certified and licensed **Colorado Asbestos Building Inspector**, unless the building was built after October 12, 1988, AND the architect or engineer who built it signs and submits documentation showing that no ACM was specified or used in the construction of the building then no inspection is needed.

▶ **Trigger Levels:** Are determined by the CDPHE (Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment) these trigger levels determine whether a disturbance is a minor or major spill.

### Single Family Residential Dwellings

("SFRD") - The trigger levels are: 50 linear feet on pipes; 32 square feet on other surfaces; or the volume equivalent of a 55-gallon drum.

**Public and Commercial Buildings-** The trigger levels are: 260 linear feet on pipes; 160 square feet on other surfaces; or the volume equivalent of a 55-gallon drum.

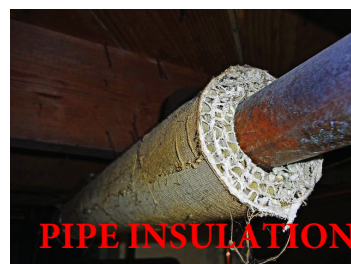
**PRODUCTS MANUFACTURED IN OTHER COUNTRIES THAT HAVE NOT BANNED THE USE OF ASBESTOS ARE STILL AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE IN THE UNITED STATES**

Under many circumstances, a Colorado-certified General Abatement Contractor (GAC) must remove ACM (Asbestos Containing Material) that is regulated or may become regulated before it is disturbed by renovation or demolition activities.

## WHERE CAN ASBESTOS BE FOUND?

Asbestos was, and still is, used in building materials for a variety of reasons. Asbestos fibers are incredibly strong and have properties that make them resistant to heat, chemical damage and insulate against electricity as well as adding durability to a product. Asbestos was added to thermal and acoustic insulation, fireproofing, roofing products and flooring. Some of the more common products that may contain asbestos include:

Acoustical Plaster	Decorative Plaster	Joint Compounds
Adhesives and Mastics	Ductwork Flexible Fabric Connections	Laboratory Gloves
Base Flashing	Electric Wiring Insulation	Laboratory Hoods/Table Tops
Blown-in Insulation	Electrical Cloth/Wrap	Packing Materials (for wall/floor penetrations)
Boiler Insulation	Electrical Panel Partitions	Pipe Insulation (corrugated air-cell, block, etc.)
Breaching Insulation	Elevator Brake Shoes	Roofing Felt
Carpet Backings	Elevator Equipment Panels	Roofing Shingles
Caulking/Putties	Fire Blankets	Spackling Compounds
Ceiling Tiles and Lay-in Panels	Fire Curtains	Spray-Applied Insulation
Cement Pipes	Fire Doors	Taping Compounds (thermal)
Cement Siding	Fireproofing Materials	Textured Paints/Coatings
Cement Wallboard	Flooring Backing	Thermal Paper Products
Chalkboards	Heating and Electrical Ducts High Temperature Gaskets High Temperature Paper Products	Vinyl Floor Tile
Construction Mastics (floor tile, carpet, ceiling tile, etc.)		Vinyl Sheet Flooring
Cooling Towers	HVAC Duct Insulation	Vinyl Wall Coverings



## WHAT IS MOLD?

Molds are large and diverse number of fungal species which occur naturally in our environment. Spores enter our homes with general air flow or by hitching a ride on clothing or shoes. "Black mold" is a term that is frequently used to refer to toxic mold; however, toxic mold can come in many colors, and mold that is black is not always toxic. Mold spores thrive and reproduce in damp, warm, dark or steamy places such as bathrooms, kitchens, cluttered storage rooms, basements or any recently flooded areas .



## HOW DO I STOP MOLD GROWTH?

As a home owner, the most effective action you can take is to reduce moisture levels in your home and maintain adequate ventilation. Always be attentive to water penetrating the structure of your home. If you discover faulty plumbing or water leaks from outside call a licensed professional to assess the severity of the problem. Rex Environmental licensed and certified technicians will perform visual, surface, and air quality assessments, to determine possible contamination. Will also provide you with a comprehensive expedited report and recommend an appropriate action plan to eliminate the issue and keep your family healthy.

## LEAD EXPOSURE IS HARMFUL

Rex Environmental's fully-licensed and certified inspectors offer:

- Paint Chip Testing
- Lead Wipe (Lead in Dust) Testing
- X-ray Fluorescence (XRF) Testing
- Lead Clearance Testing (for HPD or DOH Violation removal)
- Lead in Soil/Air/Water Testing

If you have young children at home or are planning a renovation it is critical that you schedule an assessment and get professional advice. Also, according to regulation, most real estate transactions require a lead disclosure report. Your child's development may be compromised if they ingest lead around the home, which often has lead in old paint, dust, tap water and surrounding soil. The CDC currently states that is "no safe blood lead level in children" and that nearly every system in the body can be effected by lead contamination.

Young children are the most vulnerable, but you should reduce the lead in your home to protect your whole family, as well as your pets.



## WASN'T ASBESTOS BANNED?

There are common misunderstandings about an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ban on ACM products or uses from 1989. Many sources incorrectly report that all asbestos-containing products have been banned. In 1991, the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals vacated much of the so-called "Asbestos Ban and Phaseout" rule and remanded it to the EPA. Thus, much of the original 1989 EPA ban on the U.S. manufacturing, importation, processing, or distribution in commerce of many asbestos-containing product categories was set aside and did not take effect. Six asbestos-containing product categories are still subject to the 1989 asbestos ban. However, EPA has no existing bans on other asbestos-containing products or uses. Products manufactured in other countries may also contain asbestos and can be imported into the United States.

EPA does NOT track the manufacture, processing, or distribution in commerce of asbestos-containing products. It would be prudent for a consumer or other buyer to inquire as to the presence of asbestos in particular products. Possible sources of that information would include inquiring of the dealer/supplier or manufacturer, refer to the product's "Safety Data Sheet" (SDS), or consider having the material tested by a certified building inspector before installing it in your building.

# Emergency Services Available

# 24/7



☎ 303-949-1021  
✉ [RexGolden@Rexenvironmental.com](mailto:RexGolden@Rexenvironmental.com)  
🌐 [www.Rexenvironmental.com](http://www.Rexenvironmental.com)  
📍 1658 Cole Blvd, 6-105,  
Golden, CO 80401



**COLORADO**  
Department of Public  
Health & Environment

**"A BLEND OF DEDICATION, EXPERIENCE, AND TRUST"**