

# PREVENTING EXPOSURE TO ASBESTOS AND PROTECTING FLOOR TILES



The University is involved in a variety of activities to control asbestos hazards on campus. The University conducted surveys to identify areas where asbestos containing material (ACM) is present, including in floor tiles. This focus sheet describes how to avoid exposure to ACM managed in place.

If you suspect a material in your work area may contain asbestos and it appears damaged, contact EH&S at 206.543.7262, or the Facilities Services Regulated Materials Management Office at 206.685.3357.

## HOW TO PREVENT EXPOSURE

You can prevent the potential of asbestos exposure to yourself and others by observing the following practices:

- **Immediately report damaged** ceilings, walls, pipe insulation, floor tiles, or other building materials to your supervisor or building coordinator.
- **Request an asbestos survey** prior to the start of a project that may involve disturbing ACM or presumed ACM.
  - If an asbestos survey has not been conducted, all materials are considered presumed ACM and treated as ACM until otherwise confirmed as non-asbestos containing material.
- Do not enter construction areas.
- Do not enter [restricted access areas](#).



## PROTECT FLOOR TILES

Resilient floor tiles can contain low percentages of asbestos, bound into a matrix that reduces the potential for release of fibers. Some floor tiles are over 80 years old. Over time, the wear and tear on floors by rolling or sliding chairs and moving furniture or equipment can damage floor tiles. **Damaged floor tiles can release particles that may include asbestos fibers.**

To prevent floor tile damage, EH&S and Facilities Services request that departments purchase **floor mats** to protect resilient floor coverings from chair casters.

If your floor tile or sheeting already shows signs of wear, contact Facilities Services or your building maintenance unit to assess its condition and whether it contains asbestos. EH&S will coordinate with departments to evaluate and control any potential risk from ACM.

### TO AVOID DAMAGING BUILDING MATERIALS AND SURFACES THAT MAY CONTAIN ASBESTOS, DO NOT:

- > Hammer nails into walls.
- > Put hooks into ceilings.
- > Install shelves on walls.
- > Pull up carpeting that is glued down.