



AURARIA CAMPUS INFORMATION SHEET

Subject:	Asbestos-Containing Materials on the Auraria Campus
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Asbestos describes several naturally occurring minerals mined for their useful properties. Although the mining and manufacturing of some asbestos-containing products is banned in the United States, asbestos mineral deposits are still actively mined in several other regions of the world. For this reason, asbestos-containing materials (ACM) can still be found today in buildings of any age, predominately in those built before the 1990s. Examples of ACM currently on the Auraria campus are floor tiles, mastics (adhesives), pipe sealant, and joint compound in drywall. When the potential disturbance of these materials could release airborne fibers, several closely regulated measures are taken to ensure public safety.

Researchers have not determined a "safe level" of exposure to asbestos fibers; however, the presence of intact asbestos in a facility does not mean that the health of building occupants is endangered nor does a small disturbance of asbestos constitute a significant exposure risk. The inhalation of asbestos fibers can lead to asbestosis, mesothelioma, and lung cancer. Knowledge of these health effects comes from studies specific to workers routinely exposed to high concentrations of airborne asbestos fibers over long exposure periods. ACM and Regulated Asbestos Contaminated Soil (RACS) on the Auraria Campus are closely monitored to avoid the release of asbestos-containing fibers into the breathable atmosphere.

The Auraria Campus maintains compliance with applicable Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE) Air Quality Control Commission's Regulation 8, Part B for the management, survey, and abatement of known or suspect ACM found in campus buildings. The campus also complies with the Solid and Hazardous Waste Commission's Regulations Pertaining to Solid Waste Disposal Sites and Facilities, [6 CCR 1007-2 Part 1, Section 5](#), which governs the disposal of asbestos waste and the management of asbestos-contaminated soil in Colorado. Auraria Higher Education Center (AHEC) Environmental, Health & Safety (EH&S) developed an Asbestos Standard Operating Procedure to manage ACM and to also provide a framework of safe work practices during ACM disturbance for routine maintenance and repairs or renovations of any scale. AHEC EH&S also maintains a campus-wide Materials Management Plan to provide guidance for any soil disturbing activity on campus which may involve buried historical asbestos-containing building debris and/or other contamination from historical land uses common to urban areas.

For more information:

CDPHE Asbestos regulations and general information:	https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/categories/services-and-information/environment/asbestos
2 Hour Asbestos Awareness Training:	https://ahectraining.ucdenver.edu
Contact AHEC EH&S:	info@ahec.edu