



# Disposal of Asbestos-Containing Waste Material

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Regulations regarding the disposal of asbestos-containing waste material (ACWM) are in place to ensure exposure to asbestos is minimized. In Spokane County, disposal of ACWM is regulated by entities such as Spokane Clean Air (SRCAA), Washington State Department of Labor and Industries (L&I), Spokane Regional Health District and Graham Road Recycling and Disposal Facility. Some highlights of the requirements which pertain to the disposal of ACWM follow.

## **What needs to be disposed of as asbestos containing waste material (ACWM)?**

You must dispose of any waste that contains or is contaminated with asbestos (e.g., materials used to enclose the work area, filtration devices and protective clothing) as ACWM.

## **What are the wetting requirements?**

All absorbent, asbestos-containing waste material shall be kept saturated with a liquid wetting agent until sealed in leak-tight containers. All nonabsorbent asbestos-containing waste material shall be kept coated with a liquid agent until sealed in leak-tight containers. ACWM must be promptly contained in leak tight containers as soon after removal as possible and the exterior of each leak-tight container must be free of all asbestos residue. Prior to the end of a work shift, all ACWM that has been removed must be sealed in leak-tight containers.

## **What constitutes a “leak-tight container”?**

Leak-tight container means a dust-tight and liquid-tight container, at least 6-mil thick, that encloses ACWM and prevents solids or liquids from escaping or spilling out. Such containers may include sealed plastic bags (e.g., ACWM that is double bagged in 6 mil thick plastic bags), metal or fiber drums, and sealed polyethylene plastic (e.g., “burrito” wrapped ACWM that is double wrapped in re-enforced 6 mil thick plastic to form a leak-tight container).

## **What are the labeling requirements?**

Immediately after sealing the leak-tight container, each container must be marked with the date the material was collected, the name of the waste generator, and the address at which the waste was generated. This marking must be readable without opening the container. In addition, all ACWM packaged for disposal must contain the following information in a warning label: “DANGER, CONTAINS ASBESTOS FIBERS, AVOID CREATING DUST, CANCER AND LUNG DISEASE HAZARD, AVOID BREATHING AIRBORNE ASBESTOS FIBERS” (WAC 296-800-170).

## **Are there special handling requirements for leak-tight containers?**

Yes. You are responsible for ensuring that leak-tight containers remain leak tight including all occasions when ACWM is being loaded, transferred, or unloaded. Be prepared at all times to immediately repair any breaches in leak-tight containers with tape, glue, or other viable sealants. It is a requirement for leak-tight containers not to be dropped, thrown, slid, dragged, or otherwise damaged (WAC 296-62-07723 and SRCAA Section 9.06.B). Leak-tight containers must be handled with care.

## **When must ACWM be disposed of?**

Unless an ACWM Temporary Storage Permit is obtained from SRCAA, all ACWM must be disposed of within 10 calendar days of removal at a waste disposal site authorized to accept the waste.