



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH and SAFETY

Standard Operating Procedure #3.0

The Control of Asbestos Fibres During Low Risk Operations – *Drilling Holes in the Plaster Application of Walls and Ceilings that Contain Asbestos*

Application

Many MUN buildings have walls and ceilings that are made of plaster containing between 2 – 5% asbestos. These procedures apply to drilling holes into plaster walls and ceilings for the purpose of attaching fasteners for wall hangings etc.

Materials and Equipment

Personal Protective Equipment:

Half face respirator
Disposable coveralls
Safety boots
Safety glasses

Tools and Equipment:

Wet wipes
Vaseline or shaving cream
Paper towels
Drill equipped with HEPA filtered exhaust collar
Drop cloth
Other tools required to do the work

Safe Work Practices

General:

- Compressed air shall not be used to clean up and remove dust from any surface.
- Always ensure prompt clean-up and disposal of waste.

Using HEPA exhaust collar on drill - Procedure:

1. Restrict access by vacating the area and locking doors etc., to prevent others from entering the immediate vicinity of the work area. DO NOT block access to emergency exits.
2. Clear immediate work area of all moveable furnishings or equipment.
3. After the work area is prepared and PPE is donned, pre-clean the work area by removing any visible dust and debris by HEPA vacuuming and/or wet wiping.
4. Place drop cloth directly below the work area and place tools on the drop cloth.

5. Mist the area to be cut or drilled.
6. Using a drill equipped with a HEPA filtered dust collector, drill hole in marked area. Note: ensure an effective seal is achieved with the exhaust collar and the wall/ceiling being drilled.
7. Wet wipe the area with a sponge or cloth.
8. HEPA vacuum the removal area and areas accessible from the hole.
9. Apply encapsulant if drill holes are to remain exposed.
10. Dispose of wipes, sponge and drop cloth as asbestos waste.
11. Clean tools, equipment, and work area using wet wiping and HEPA vacuuming as appropriate.
12. Workers decontaminate, remove protective clothing and respirators. Dispose of protective clothing as asbestos waste.

Using Petroleum Jelly or Shaving Cream - Procedure:

1. Restrict access by vacating the area and locking doors etc., to prevent others from entering the immediate vicinity of the work area. DO NOT block access to emergency exits.
2. Clear immediate work area of all moveable furnishings or equipment.
3. After the work area is prepared and PPE is donned, pre-clean the work area by removing any visible dust and debris by HEPA vacuuming and/or wet wiping.
4. Place drop cloth directly below the work area and place tools on the drop cloth.
5. Place a generous amount of petroleum jelly or shaving cream on the area to be drilled.
6. Drill directly into the petroleum jelly or shaving cream in marked area so that dust/debris gets caught in the petroleum jelly/shaving cream.
7. Wipe the drill bit with a cloth and wipe the petroleum jelly/shaving cream off the wall/ceiling with a cloth.
8. Dispose of any cloths, wipes, sponge and drop cloth as asbestos waste.
9. Clean tools, equipment, and work area using wet wiping and HEPA vacuuming as appropriate.
10. Workers decontaminate, remove protective clothing and respirators. Dispose of protective clothing as asbestos waste.
11. Restore area to normal accessibility.
12. Report any ACM noted to be in poor condition to the Asbestos Management Coordinator as soon as possible.