




MEMORANDUM

Date: April 29, 2024
To: USC Community
From: Office of Environmental Health and Safety 
Deona Willes, MPH, CLS | Executive Director
Subject: Annual Asbestos Notification

California state law requires notification to all USC personnel of the presence of asbestos in certain materials used in the construction of University buildings. In compliance with this law, the Office of Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) has identified areas at USC where asbestos containing materials (ACM) are present.

Buildings that are older than 1981 may contain asbestos materials in public access areas. These materials may include but are not limited to vinyl asbestos floor tiles and/or linoleum sheet flooring as well as the mastic used to secure them. In addition, some laboratory and machine shop areas have benches and/or fume hoods constructed of transite and other similar ACM. Asbestos in these materials is bonded with vinyl, epoxy, cement, or other materials and under normal conditions, does not pose any danger to the user. However, if the material is drilled, sanded, or otherwise disturbed, it could result in the release of asbestos fibers into the air that could pose a health risk. Such work must only be performed by trained and certified personnel using proper work practices, containment equipment, and personal protection.

Other areas at USC that may contain asbestos include:

- **Sprayed-on acoustical material.** This does not present a problem unless pulverized (reduced to powder by hand pressure). Again, only trained and certified personnel with the proper equipment should perform work that could potentially disturb such materials.
- **Fire doors** used in stairwells and the entrances to mechanical rooms. These doors are usually wooden and have a metal label on the inside edge or top identifying them as having a type "B" fire rating or a rating of one hour or greater. As long as these doors are intact, they pose no health risk to building occupants.
- **Restricted public access** such as mechanical rooms and cores in larger buildings. In very few instances, asbestos insulated pipes are in public corridors. As long as the outer canvas cover or metal sheathing on the pipes is intact, the insulation presents no health problem. If the protective covering is damaged, call Facilities Planning and Management (FPM) at (213) 740-6833 to report the issue.

If there are any questions regarding the ACM inventory, please contact EH&S at EHS@usc.edu.

Thank you in advance for your continued assistance in protecting the health and safety of the campus community.