



FACT SHEET

Lafayette Building Modernization Project

Asbestos in Building Materials

Asbestos is a general name for a group of naturally-occurring minerals composed of small fibers. It is common in many building materials. Various diseases have been associated with industrial exposure to asbestos fibers, and the extensive use of asbestos in building materials has raised some concern about exposure in non-industrial settings. The presence of asbestos in a building does not mean that the health of building occupants is endangered. As long as asbestos-containing materials remain in good condition and are not disturbed or damaged, exposure is unlikely. Portions of the Lafayette Building will remain occupied during asbestos removal and approved asbestos work practices and controls will be followed and monitored to ensure that abatement areas remain sealed off from the general building population. Damaged, deteriorated or disturbed asbestos-containing materials can lead to fiber release (exposure), and unauthorized removal or disturbance of asbestos materials is not only potentially unhealthy but also illegal. Only trained, certified asbestos workers will handle or remove asbestos-containing materials during the Lafayette Building Modernization Project. Unauthorized or uncontrolled disturbance of asbestos materials is a violation of GSA policy and does not comply with EPA or OSHA regulations and guidelines.

Types of Asbestos Building Materials

The following are the types of building materials that have been tested and identified as containing asbestos in the Lafayette Building:

Floor Tile	Roofing Materials	Adhesives/Mastics	Ceiling Plaster
Pipe Fittings	Terrazzo Tile	Ceiling tiles	Acoustical Finishes
Pipe Insulation	Fire Doors	Floor Tile Mastic	HVAC Duct Wrap
HVAC Duct Mastic	Window Caulk		

These materials have been identified for removal in locations throughout the Lafayette Building including the Ground Level Retail Spaces, Floors 1 through 12, the Penthouse, and Exterior areas of the building.

Building materials that may contain asbestos must be treated as if they do until laboratory testing proves that they do not contain asbestos. If you have any questions about whether a material contains asbestos, ask your Supervisor, Safety Specialist, GSA Project Manager, or call GSA's Safety, Environment and Fire Protection Branch at (202) 708-5236.



Asbestos Guidelines During the Modernization Project

- Do not damage, disturb, or remove asbestos-containing materials. Only trained and certified asbestos workers will handle or remove asbestos-containing materials during the modernization project.
- Promptly report potential asbestos debris or damaged asbestos materials (e.g., damaged pipe insulation and loose/missing floor tiles) that you see to your Supervisor/Safety Specialist, GSA Project Manager or the GSA Safety, Environment and Fire Protection Branch. The materials may already have been tested or, if not, will be sampled and tested in accordance with the project plans and specifications. When in doubt, ask.
- If you see improper cleaning or maintenance activities being done on identified or suspect asbestos materials, see that they are stopped and contact your Supervisor, Safety Specialist, GSA Project Manager or call GSA's Safety, Environment and Fire Protection Branch at (202) 708-5236.