

Reducing Asbestos Exposure

Libby Amphibole Asbestos

Libby amphibole asbestos (LA) is a naturally occurring mineral but should be handled with extreme care. Exposure to LA can lead to serious asbestos-related diseases, such as asbestosis, lung cancer or mesothelioma.

The health risk from exposure to all asbestos depends greatly on the amount of asbestos in the material you are disturbing and length of time that exposure lasts; therefore, precautions should be exercised to limit asbestos exposures.

Vermiculite

Vermiculite was mined in Libby, MT and was commonly used in and around homes in Lincoln County for a variety of reasons, including as a soil additive, construction aggregate and attic insulation. If vermiculite is present, it may contain LA.

If you encounter vermiculite on your property, it is possible that it is contaminated with asbestos. The disturbance of vermiculite that is contaminated with asbestos may cause the LA to become airborne.

Cover or wet the vermiculite and call the ARP Hotline. The ARP will help determine if the vermiculite is contaminated with LA.

You may come into contact with asbestos on your property even if the EPA has investigated the property or completed a removal.

High efficiency particulate air, **HEPA**, filter vacuums are effective for asbestos containing vermiculite insulation. Never vacuum vermiculite with a regular vacuum. Also, use a HEPA vacuum for household cleaning and to remove dust from inaccessible areas, such as under carpets, appliances or furniture.



ARP Hotline – 406-291-5335

Call if you plan to remodel, demolish, excavate OR if you find vermiculite on your property. The Asbestos Resource Program (ARP) will send personnel out to inspect the situation, provide information, and make recommendations. The ARP may also serve as a liaison during those activities.

You may come into contact with Libby amphibole asbestos during:

Renovating – removing old carpets or drywall, installing ceiling fans or removing wall outlets, taking down walls, putting in windows

Routine landscaping – gardening, rototilling or mowing

Extensive digging – septic systems, sprinklers or water lines

Should I be worried about asbestos if the EPA has already been to my property?

Even though the EPA has visited your property, you could still come into contact with asbestos.

Call the ARP for more information on the investigation and removal activities completed by the EPA and for details about the asbestos that may remain on your property.

REMEMBER, regular dust masks are not effective in reducing exposure to LA.

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Vermiculite in soil



Processed vermiculite often seen as insulation.

Additional Resources

Lincoln County Asbestos Resource Program

418 Mineral Avenue
Libby, MT 59923
406-283-2442
www.lcarp.org

United States Environmental Protection Agency

Information Center
108 E. 9th St
Libby, MT 59923
406-293-6194

www2.epa.gov/region8/libby-asbestos

Montana
Department of Environmental Quality
Asbestos Control Program
406-444-5300

Steps to take while renovating or demolishing:

- **Do** contact the ARP Hotline before renovating or demolishing.
- **Do** check local, state and federal regulations regarding renovation and demolition of buildings.
- **Do** use point-of-cut ventilation techniques when pulling, cutting or accessing behind boards or wall coverings.
- **Do** use a HEPA vacuum at the point of access or disturbance to minimize dust migration and lessen potential exposure.

Demolition:

- **Do** use water to moisten the area being demolished to minimize dust.
- **Do** rinse off any equipment within the work area.
- **Do** keep all debris wet and covered with a tarp during transportation.
- **Do** dispose of debris according to local, state and federal laws including landfill specific requirements.

Steps to take while working outside of your home:

- **Do** water your lawn often, a healthy lawn reduces dust.
- **Do** rinse gardening tools outside within your work area after every use.
- **Do** wipe your feet and/or take your shoes off at the door and leave them outside, if possible. Try not to bring any contaminated clothing or material back inside.
- **Do** wash your hands outdoors after any yard work, if possible.
- **Do not** disturb areas where you can see vermiculite. If it is a place you intend to work in, cover the vermiculite and call the ARP Hotline.
- **Do not** dig, cultivate, mow, rake or rototill your yard or garden when it is dry and dusty.
- **Do not** bring dusty or dirty things inside.

CALL THE ARP HOTLINE IF YOU SEE ANY VERMICULITE ON YOUR PROPERTY, EVEN IF YOU ARE UNSURE.