



Asbestos Decontamination

Prepared by: Gordon Hood, Coordinator Health Safety and Environment

Approved by: Jim Toye, City Manager

Signature:  **Procedure No:** 1.2

Effective: August 16, 2018 **Replaces:** February 22, 2016

If during the removal or hauling of waste asbestos any equipment is contaminated, the following procedures, for decontamination, must be followed:

1. The equipment is to be taken to the closest area that it can be thoroughly washed and decontaminated. This area should be at or as close as possible to the site of the contamination.
2. For small pieces of equipment, they can be submerged in water or a wet rag can be used to wipe off any possible asbestos fibres. This could include saws, drills, drill bits, coveralls, and respirators. The rag used will be contaminated with asbestos and must be disposed of as asbestos waste.
3. For large pieces of equipment where it is impractical to wipe down with a damp cloth, they must be thoroughly washed. Prior to starting this procedure, the worker must be wearing appropriate PPE including respirator fitted with a P100 cartridge, safety glasses, paper coveralls, rubber gloves, and safety footwear. The coveralls must be sealed with duct tape at the ankles to the boots worn and at the wrists to the gloves being used.
4. The equipment must be washed into an area that will contain asbestos fibres (i.e. excavation, sewer system, etcetera)
5. Once the equipment is decontaminated, it can be removed from the wash site and that site must be cleaned and sealed to prevent fibres from becoming airborne.
6. Upon completion of the decontamination of the equipment and the wash site, the worker shall obtain a wet rag and rinse off their outer layer to ensure no fibres are present. Any material, including the rag, that cannot be thoroughly cleaned is considered asbestos waste. The final item to be wiped down and then removed is the respirator. The cartridges for the respirator are also asbestos waste and must be appropriately disposed of.