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Boston Public Health Commission  
Environmental Health Office

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## General Procedures for Removal of Asbestos Shingles in the City of Boston by Property Owners or Contractors

1. An **Asbestos Abatement Project Permit** issued by the Boston Public Health Commission Environmental Health Office is required for all asbestos removal projects, including asbestos shingles and siding removed by a resident owner. Contact the Environmental Health Office (617-534-5966) for details and a copy of the permit application form.
2. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP – 978-661-7600) must also be notified of the removal work and a copy of such notification will form part of the Public Health Commission permit application.
3. Isolate the work with posted warnings of asbestos hazard. Close all windows and doors. Only abatement workers authorized by permit (licensed workers or the home owner for residential shingles) and inspectors are allowed in the work area. For residential shingle removal conducted by those who are not contractors, please remember to keep all children and pets away from the work area.
4. Workers must use protective disposable clothing and HEPA filter respirator protection rated for dusts, mists, asbestos, and radionuclides (half mask usually color coded purple).
5. Cover the ground with 6mil polyethylene sheeting.
6. Wet shingles to the extent possible prior to removal and periodically mist to control the release of asbestos fibers.
7. Remove shingles in single pieces, as intact as possible (do not drop) and place them in leak-tight containers; double 6 mil polyethylene bags or fiber glass drums are recommended.
8. Sealed and labeled bags of asbestos shingles must be disposed of at a Department of Environmental Protection approved site.
9. After all of the asbestos shingles have been removed and bagged, the entire work area must be cleaned until it is free of all visible asbestos dust fragments.