What is asbestos?
- Asbestos is a mineral found in nature.
- It is usually white or grey in color.
- It can look like cardboard, cotton, plaster or clay. It can also be inside certain products.
- It is made up of tiny, needle-like fibers that you cannot see.

Where is asbestos found?
- Asbestos is a good insulator that was used in many products as recently as 1989, and is still in some today.
- Common places where you might find asbestos include pipe and boiler insulation, shingles, floor tiles, roofing, and certain adhesives.

Can asbestos cause health problems?
Yes. When asbestos is damaged or disturbed, you can breathe the tiny fibers into your lungs.
- Asbestos can cause diseases like lung cancer and scarring in the lungs, called asbestosis.
- After you have been exposed to asbestos, it can take many years for a disease to develop.
- If you have been exposed to asbestos, smoking increases your risk of cancer.

How do I know if my home has asbestos?
- DO NOT touch anything you think contains asbestos.
- If you are concerned that something is an asbestos hazard, call 617-534-5965 to request an inspection.

My home has asbestos. What should I do?
- DO NOT touch it. DO NOT try to remove it yourself.
- If it is not damaged (also called 'intact'), you can leave it alone or hire a contractor to remove it.
- If it is damaged or disturbed, hire a licensed asbestos contractor to remove it. To find a licensed contractor, visit www.state.ma.us/dos/.
- Your contractor must get a permit from BPHC. Ask for a copy of this permit for your records.
- Unlicensed asbestos removal is illegal. It is dangerous for your health and expensive to clean up.