

WCB INSIDER

November 2021

Asbestos kills. It's best to test.

Did you know that asbestos is the number one cause of work-related deaths in Manitoba? SAFE Work Manitoba's upcoming campaign, Asbestos kills. It's best to test., highlights how actions taken today can reduce or even eliminate exposure to this potentially lethal hazard.

Asbestos is still present in many homes and buildings built before 1990 – it was commonly used in more than 3,000 building materials and products. The danger to people occurs when materials containing asbestos are disturbed, releasing tiny fibres into the air that once inhaled can lead to life-threatening lung diseases such as lung cancer, asbestosis and mesothelioma.

Asbestos doesn't burn, which is why it was used in many products to resist heat. It could be anywhere. Some common asbestos-containing materials are: built up roofing, shingles/siding, vermiculite insulation, ceiling tiles and coatings, popcorn ceilings, drywall and cement sheets, plaster putties and caulking,



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electrical switchboard panels, plumbing insulation, pipe and duct coverings, thermal boiler and fireplace insulation and many types of flooring. Visit SAFE Work Manitoba to explore an interactive model and find where asbestos could be hiding, as well as the steps required to safely detect and remove asbestos.

If left undisturbed, asbestos materials in good, stable condition are unlikely to

release dangerous fibres and pose a health risk. That's why it's important to test. If you think you have found asbestos, don't disturb the suspect material. Don't sweep, vacuum or dust possible asbestos debris and don't remove it. If possible, keep everyone out of the area and call an asbestos abatement company with trained and qualified personnel to test the site.

We all play a role in helping to protect our co-workers, families and ourselves from exposure to asbestos. Visit our campaign page at safemanitoba.com/asbestos to find resources that can help you learn more about the dangers of asbestos and how to protect the people at your workplace and at home.



A return to work plan helps you get back to work safely after an injury.

Watch for our next Return to Work campaign in November!

Talk with your employer about your return to work plan.

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Reporting changes in payroll estimates

We recognize that businesses may have experienced significant changes in their payroll this past year. If your payroll changes at any point after you provide the WCB with your annual payroll estimate in February, let us know so you can avoid unnecessary interest charges.

It's important to update your payroll information because your premiums are based on this number.

Your premium payments should appropriately reflect your coverage level and be paid for in the year in which you have the coverage.

If your payroll increases, your premium and payments will increase. If your payroll decreases, your premium and payments will also decrease. Interest may be added if you underestimate your payroll amount.

Changes to your payroll estimate can be submitted at any time. The quickest and most effective way to submit revised payroll is to e-mail us with your account number at assessmentservices@wcb.mb.ca.

You can also send changes by mail, phone, or fax. Please be sure to include your account number with all correspondence.

WCB Assessment Services
333 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 3W4
Phone: 204-954-4505; toll free 1-855-954-4321, ext. 4505
Fax: 204-954-4900; toll free in Canada: 1-866-245-0796.
For more information, visit wcb.mb.ca > Employer > Report Payroll > Change my Payroll Estimate.

Employers, we want to hear from you!

The WCB, through Prairie Research Associates, is currently conducting our Annual Employer Survey. This survey takes place each year in October and November, and is an important feedback tool that helps us to improve the service that we provide.

As a valued customer, your feedback is important. If you're contacted, you may choose to complete the survey on the phone or online. Participation is voluntary and completely confidential. Any individual answers will remain anonymous and only summary reports, which don't identify individual respondents, are provided to the WCB.

If you have any questions, please contact scheekie@wcb.mb.ca. Thank you for your participation.

Circle December 6 on your Calendar!

If you're a workplace safety and health committee co-chair, plan to join us for the **SAFE Work Manitoba Committee Leadership Conference** at the Victoria Inn in Winnipeg.



Visit safemanitoba.com/clc for conference details!

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