

The Alberta Building Code

The Alberta Building Code is administered by Alberta Municipal Affairs and Housing. It requires building owners to obtain a building permit before altering or demolishing a structure.

Occupational Health and Safety

Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry administers the health and safety rules for work sites through the *Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Act, Regulation and Code*.

Municipal Affairs and Housing, and Employment, Immigration and Industry work with municipalities, agencies and corporations to ensure that contractors and employers who renovate or demolish structures are aware of their legislated responsibilities.

See back cover for contact information.

Contacts

**Workplace Health and Safety
Employment, Immigration and Industry**
www.worksafely.org
1-866-415-8690

**Building Permits
Municipal Affairs and Housing**
www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca/ss_permit.htm
1-866-421-6929

**Hazardous Waste Disposal
Alberta Environment**
www.gov.ab.ca/env/waste/index.html
(780) 427-2700

For toll-free access to any provincial government office, dial 310-0000 from anywhere in Alberta.

Outside Alberta, call long distance (780) 427-2711.

Deaf/hearing impaired callers with a TDD/TTY, call 427-9999 in Edmonton or 1-800-232-7215 throughout Alberta.



Hidden Danger

Hazardous Materials in Your Building

www.worksafely.org

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Alberta



There may be a hidden danger in your building

Before you start your renovation or demolition project, you need to know about hazardous materials. They can pose a danger to your employees, contractors and you. Health and safety is important to everyone.

Hazardous materials can include chemical substances such as:

- building materials containing asbestos
- non-asbestos insulation materials such as fiberglass and refractory ceramic fibre
- lead paints
- mercury (fluorescent lights, switches, gauges)
- polychlorinated biphenyls or PCBs (liquid-cooled equipment, light ballasts, paints, electrical insulating materials)
- oils and lubricants
- batteries and fuels
- paints and thinners
- glues and solvents
- cooling system chemicals such as freon
- compressed gases
- welding rods and solder
- other hazardous chemicals

Hazardous materials can include biological substances such as mould and bacteria from human or animal wastes, including:

- sewage
- manure
- bird and rodent droppings
- dead animals

An employer must:

- assess hazards at the work site before work begins
- ensure workers are protected from hazards at the work site
- ensure work procedures are developed when a worker may be exposed to a harmful substance
- ensure workers are properly trained to deal with hazards at the work site
- obtain a permit from the appropriate municipal agency, as required
- properly dispose of hazardous waste
- properly abate building materials containing asbestos prior to demolition or renovations

If there are materials containing asbestos in a structure, the contractor or employer must:

- remove or enclose the material in a renovation area;
- remove the material **prior to** demolition;
- notify Workplace Health and Safety before the materials are removed, enclosed or encapsulated; and
- ensure workers involved in the removal, enclosure or encapsulation of the material have additional training specific to these activities.

