



# Asbestos in OYA Facilities

Routine Notice | November 2022

- Two OYA facilities have buildings with materials that contain asbestos.
- In seven other facilities, we tested areas open to people and did not find asbestos.
- Materials with asbestos usually do not pose a health risk, if they are kept in safe condition.
- OYA keeps our facility materials with asbestos in safe condition and inspects them every six months.

## **This routine notice is to help keep everyone safe**

This is a reminder that some building materials that were used at some of our facilities contain asbestos. This is a routine notice to comply with guidelines from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

## **These facilities have buildings that contain asbestos:**

- MacLaren Youth Correctional Facility
- Camp Tillamook Youth Transitional Facility

## **These facilities do not have asbestos in areas regularly open to people:**

- Eastern Oregon Youth Correctional Facility
- Oak Creek Youth Correctional Facility
- Rogue Valley Youth Correctional Facility
- Tillamook Youth Correctional Facility
- Jackie Winters Transition Program (formerly the Young Women's Transition Program)
- Camp Florence Youth Transitional Facility
- Camp Riverbend Youth Transitional Facility

Some of these seven facilities were built in the 1960s, and many were built after asbestos use was restricted. In 2018 we tested the floors, ceilings, and wall materials in all the areas that are regularly open to people. We also did additional sampling and testing in 2021. **For most, we did not find any asbestos, and any materials that did contain asbestos have been removed.**

However, we did not test materials in areas that are not regularly open to people. Therefore, we will continue to treat these areas as if they do have asbestos:

- Inside walls
- Above ceilings
- Inside fire doors
- Crawlspace
- Roofs



# Asbestos in OYA Facilities

Routine Notice | November 2022

## **Why is asbestos a concern?**

Asbestos enters the body when someone breathes in or swallows airborne particles (fibers). Asbestos can cause disabling and fatal sicknesses such as cancer or lung disease.

Nearly all buildings constructed before 1990 contain some asbestos material.

The U.S. has not completely banned asbestos. Some products still contain asbestos. However, certain products and uses were banned beginning in the late 1970s.

## **Materials with asbestos usually pose no health risk**

Materials with asbestos do not pose any health or safety risks when they're properly maintained and stay in one piece. This means that to stay safe, you cannot sand, drill, scrape, or break asbestos material.

Asbestos only poses a health risk when fibers float in the air and someone breathes in or swallows them.

## **Where is the asbestos in OYA facilities?**

Each facility has a management plan that identifies locations where we know or assume there is asbestos. Asbestos is more common in older buildings.

Sometimes asbestos is found in pipe insulation, floor tile, roofing materials, plaster, and wallboard joint compound, but not always.

To be extra safe, we treat any areas where we haven't tested as if they have asbestos.

## **What is OYA doing about asbestos at its facilities?**

### **Removing Asbestos Materials**

OYA actively removes asbestos during renovation projects. Several years ago, we successfully cleared material that contains asbestos from Camp Riverbend and Camp Florence.



# Asbestos in OYA Facilities

Routine Notice | November 2022

## **Policy of Not Disturbing Asbestos**

OYA's policy is that we do not disturb asbestos. We outsource all activities that require disturbing materials that might contain asbestos.

Anyone who wants to do an activity in OYA's facilities that might disturb materials in a building's floors, walls, or ceilings must contact and get approval from OYA's Physical Plant Operations (PPO) team first. This includes staff, youth, volunteers, contractors, and visitors.

## **Keeping Materials in Safe Condition**

OYA's PPO team has kept the materials we know have asbestos in safe condition for decades. Whenever our renovation or demolition projects require removing materials with asbestos, it's done by a licensed contractor who specializes in handling asbestos.

Also, we inspect all materials that we know or assume have asbestos every six months. If needed, we will take additional measures to protect people's health in our buildings.

## **Asbestos Testing at Facilities**

The PPO office maintains asbestos management plans with information and inspection results for each facility. OSHA and the Environmental Protection Agency require us to have these plans. Our operations and maintenance staff use these plans as guides.

We updated our management plans in 2021. This included additional testing and inspections at all our facilities. We will continue to test every three years.

## **Learn More**

### **About asbestos in OYA facilities**

OYA Communications Office

503-551-8294

[Communications@oya.oregon.gov](mailto:Communications@oya.oregon.gov)

### **General information about asbestos**

[Environmental Protection Agency](https://www.epa.gov/asbestos)