



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**News Release**

**LINDA LINGLE**  
GOVERNOR

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**DOH REMINDS CONDO OWNERS ABOUT ASBESTOS RULES  
DURING RENOVATION OR CONSTRUCTION WORK**

HONOLULU — The Hawaii State Department of Health is reminding condominium or apartment building owners and those that operate a commercial building or space that they are subject to state asbestos rules (Title 11, Hawaii Administrative Rules, Chapters 501 through 504). Recently the DOH has been seeing an increase in violations by condo owners relating to the proper handling of asbestos materials during renovation work.

Any part of a condominium building is considered a regulated facility under the state and federal asbestos rules. A regulated facility is defined as “any institutional, commercial, public, industrial, or residential structure, installation, or building (...excluding residences or residential cooperatives that have four or fewer total dwelling units)...”

Although it is not illegal nor a health hazard to occupy a space with asbestos-containing materials in good condition, there are regulations with regards to performing renovation and demolition activities at regulated facilities.

These asbestos requirements include:

- Using a state certified asbestos inspector to identify suspect asbestos-containing materials prior to the renovation/demolition activities which may disturb them.
- Using a state licensed asbestos contractor to properly remove, containerize and dispose of the regulated asbestos-containing materials.
- File proper notification documents with the State Department of Health.

Most buildings built before the 1980s have some asbestos-containing materials, however these materials do not pose a health hazard if left in place and in good condition. The state and federal regulations are meant to protect public health during the renovation and demolition activities which may disturb asbestos-containing materials and lead to unnecessary exposure to asbestos.

(more)

If you have any questions, you may view the state asbestos rules at [www.hawaii.gov/health/about/rules/admrules.html](http://www.hawaii.gov/health/about/rules/admrules.html) or call the state asbestos office at (808) 586-5800.

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