



**THE GEORGE  
WASHINGTON  
UNIVERSITY**  
WASHINGTON, DC

**Responsible University Official:**  
Director, Office of Health and Safety  
**Responsible Office:** Office of Safety  
and Security  
**Last Revised Date:** June 1, 2006

## ASBESTOS POLICY

### Policy Statement

It is the policy of the university to comply with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations regarding asbestos in university buildings. This policy establishes general guidelines for faculty, staff, students and contractors in compliance with regulations issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and local governments.

### Reason for Policy/Purpose

Asbestos was incorporated into a number of widely used building construction products beginning in the late 1800s. The most common uses in university buildings were in floor tiles and mastic glue, thermal insulation, acoustical decorative plaster, ceiling tiles, structural steel fireproofing and drywall joint compound. Asbestos Containing Material (ACM) does not present a health hazard while intact. Disturbance of ACM, however, may release fibers that may become airborne and inhaled, thus potentially presenting health hazard. Although most products containing asbestos were removed from the market by the mid-1980s, university buildings built before 1980 are assumed to contain ACM until examined by the Office of Health and Safety.

### Who Needs to Know This Policy

Faculty, staff, students and contractors

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## **Policy/Procedures**

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### **Suspected Asbestos Hazards**

Members of the university community who observe or suspect the presence of ACM in a university building should not disturb the material. The ACM should be reported to the Office of Health and Safety at 202-994-4347. The Office of Health and Safety will coordinate inspection of the suspected material, and any necessary actions.

### **Asbestos in Work Areas**

Before undertaking any projects of repair, renovation or construction that may impact ACM, the project manager or facilities supervisor is responsible for arranging a survey to determine if ACM is present in the planned work area. This can be done by contacting the Office of Health and Safety.

The project manager or facilities supervisor is responsible for informing contractors and subcontractors of the locations of suspected or known ACM. Contractors are responsible for providing their employees with the appropriate amount of asbestos-awareness training, personal protective equipment and licenses required by applicable regulations.

If any suspect materials are encountered, the staff member or contractor will immediately stop work and notify the Office of Health and Safety. In the event ACM is confirmed, necessary precautions must be taken to minimize exposure to asbestos fibers to university employees, students and visitors.

ACM must be disposed of in a secure landfill in a manner consistent with applicable federal, state, and local regulations.

This policy is supported by the procedures set forth in the [Asbestos Management Plan](#).

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## **Website Address for This Policy**

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[GW University Policies](#)

## ASBESTOS POLICY

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### Contacts

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<b>Subject</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Email</b>
Asbestos	Health and Safety	202-994-4347	Safety@gwu.edu

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### Definitions

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**Asbestos** A naturally occurring fibrous mineral, historically used in thermal system insulation, fire doors, plaster, floor and ceiling tiles, and adhesives and mastics.

**ACM** Asbestos Containing Material. Any material containing greater than one-percent asbestos.

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### Related Information

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[The Office of Health and Safety – Asbestos](#) Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Asbestos Standards ([29 CFR 1926.1101](#) and [29 CFR 1910.1001](#))  
[Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\) \(40 CFR 61 Subpart M\)](#)  
[District of Columbia Control of Asbestos \(20 DCMR Section 800\)](#)  
[Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#)  
[Environmental Protection Agency](#)

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### Who Approved This Policy

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Louis H. Katz, Executive Vice President and Treasurer  
Beth Nolan, Senior Vice President and General Counsel

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### History/Revision Dates

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**Origination Date:** February 7, 1996

**Last Revised Date:** June 1, 2006

**Last Reviewed Date:** May 31, 2014