

CASE STUDY: TRANSITE SIDING REMOVAL (6 RESIDENCES)

Scope of Services: AET was contacted by a County Redevelopment Authority to provide environmental consulting and engineering services to demolish 7 residential homes for future site redevelopment. Six of the 7 residences had asbestos containing exterior transite siding; quantities ranged from 2000-3000 SF per home. The siding was on all 4 sides of each residence and extended to roof level (between 15-25 feet above ground level). The siding was 1x2 sheets; approximately 1/4" thick and secured by 1 inch nails to the exterior wood cladding via manufacturers installed holes.

AET's Experience: Transite is a trade name of a composite rigid siding manufactured by Johns-Manville Corporation. Transite contains between 12-15% chrysotile asbestos which is mixed with Portland cement. Transite siding was installed on commercial and residential buildings commencing in the 1940's and was phased out in the 1980's.

Transite is an EPA Category II non-friable asbestos containing material. Transite does not represent an asbestos health hazard unless damaged (rendered friable) during cutting, abrading, hammering, sanding, grinding, shotblasting, etc. EPA NESHAP regulations treat transite as RACM which must be removed prior to building demolition. Transite removal must be performed by licensed asbestos contractors whose workers wear protective clothing and respiratory protection.

OSHA Class II Asbestos Work: Specific Removal, Handling, Transportation, Disposal Requirements

1. **Notification** in the form of an Asbestos Abatement Renovation/Demolition Form must be submitted to the State DEP and the EPA.
2. **Asbestos warning signs** must be posted at all entries to the property.
3. **Asbestos regulated area(s)** must be established by cordoning off the asbestos work area at least 25 feet from the building foundation.
4. **Plastic (6 mil) drop sheeting** must be placed on the ground surfaces extending 5-10 feet from the building foundation to collect any debris.
5. **Construct scaffolding** to safely access all siding; siding removal is a two handed operation and can not be performed safely by ladder.
6. **Wet with amended water** the siding to minimize fiber release
7. **Remove siding intact** by prying the siding at the nail contact points; keep breakage to a minimum and lower siding to the ground surfaces (do not drop).
8. **Perform daily cleanup** of the jobsite; transite pieces and debris must not be allowed to remain for potential contact by unauthorized persons entry to the jobsite.
9. **Place waste in cardboard drums** or a lined dumpster for disposal. Waste bags often get torn or ripped and have limited use.
10. **Transport waste** to a licensed landfill and maintain proper placarding on the dumpster and vehicles.
11. **Notify the landfill** of the specific type of asbestos containing materials which will be disposed of.

CONCLUSION: Transite was removed by a 3 man crew. Each residence required 4 days to complete. The removal and disposal costs were approximately \$3.00 per square foot.

When you need professional industrial hygiene advice email Alan Sutherland, CIH, CHMM at a.sutherland@aetinc.biz or call 610-891-0114. We provide nationwide services; phone consultations are free. Check out the full range of environmental contracting/consulting services on our website www.aetinc.biz.

Accredited Environmental Technologies, Inc.