

## **Proposed amendment of Title 3, Chapter 46 for concerning removal and disposal of asbestos siding**

**Asbestos** is a set of six naturally occurring silicate minerals used commercially for their desirable physical properties, such as fire resistance. The inhalation of asbestos fibers can cause serious illnesses.

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) regulates the removal of asbestos containing materials and is primarily concerned with friable (easily broken) materials inside properties. Asbestos shingles are considered non-friable unless broken or damaged during removal. In general the MDH does not investigate removal of asbestos shingles of residential properties.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) regulates the disposal of asbestos containing materials.

Environmental Services receives about 5 complaints a year from callers concerned about removal of asbestos shingles from the exterior of buildings. In general residents are concerns with:

- Asbestos particles become airborne due to improper removal techniques.
- Asbestos particles and debris are left on the site.
- Illegal disposal of asbestos containing materials.

Proposed ordinance amendments will:

- Require use of proper removal techniques to prevent shingles becoming friable.
- Allow revocation external siding permits if proper methods are not being used.
- Require a landfill disposal receipt from an appropriate waste site.