



VINYL ASBESTOS TILE

Vinyl asbestos tile (VAT) is a common asbestos-containing building material (ACBM) still found in many Harvard University buildings. VAT is a non-friable form of asbestos that poses essentially no risk to public health, if handled appropriately.

In order to assure proper handling and prevent the release asbestos into the ambient air, non-friable ACBM are covered by Massachusetts Asbestos Regulations [453 CMR 6.00 and 310 CMR 7.15]. This document provides information to help facilities personnel to appropriately manage vinyl asbestos tile in their buildings.

- Assume that any vinyl tile and mastic are ACBM unless there is documentation such as laboratory testing results or a product specification that verifies the material does not meet the definition of an ACBM.
- Loose VAT that is intact and whole can be handled by a building manager or other facilities personnel. Tile must be stored in a secure location. Tiles must be disposed of by a licensed contractor and should not go to the general waste stream. Tiles should not be stored on site for more than 30 days.
- Broken and fragmented VAT must be handled by a contractor. A full response by a licensed asbestos contractor is required for tile area exceeding 3 square feet (2-3 9x9 tiles).
- Jobs requiring removal of carpet from a VAT covered floor should be reviewed by EH&S. If tiles remain attached to carpet or are broken during the work, they must be removed by a licensed asbestos contractor.
- The mastic under missing tiles should not be disturbed. EH&S recommends testing the mastic to assure appropriate asbestos management. Mastic may be covered with a new non-asbestos tile or tested and abated, as necessary. If the mastic is ACBM it can only be removed by a licensed asbestos contractor.

Occupational Safety and Health Administration Asbestos Standard for Construction 1926.1101 and General Industry 1910.1001 include specific requirements regarding the maintenance of VAT.

- Custodial and maintenance staff must be appropriately trained regarding the care of VAT.
- Sanding of VAT is prohibited.
- Stripping of VAT shall be only be performed using low abrasion pads at speeds less than 300 rpm and utilizing wet methods.
- Burnishing or dry buffing maybe be performed only on VAT that has sufficient finish so that the pad cannot contact the asbestos containing material.

For additional information, please visit the following link:

[Massachusetts Workplace Safety and Health – Vinyl Asbestos Floor Tiles](#)