

Clean Classrooms for Carolina Kids Asbestos Terminology

This guide contains commonly used asbestos terminology that you may see throughout the Clean Classrooms for Carolina Kids program. If, after reviewing the terminology, you have any questions, please visit our [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) page or contact our team at the following link: <https://cleanwaterforuskids.org/en/carolina/contact/>.

Abatement: Activities that are carried out to repair and maintain, remove, isolate, enclose, replace, or encapsulate asbestos-containing materials.

Asbestos: Asbestos is a known cancer-causing agent, and no safe level of asbestos exposure has been documented. Asbestos was commonly used in various building materials, such as ceiling tiles, cement, floor tiles, insulation, roofing, and woven materials. When safely managed, these materials do not present a hazard.

Asbestos-containing materials: Any materials that contain more than 1% asbestos by weight.

Asbestos hazard: This term refers to a condition that results in exposure to asbestos because of damaged or deteriorated asbestos-containing materials.

Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA): AHERA is a regulation that requires public and non-profit schools to inspect their facilities for asbestos-containing materials and prepare Asbestos Management Plans to take action to prevent or reduce exposure to asbestos.

AHERA asbestos inspection exemption letter: Schools can be exempt from the AHERA asbestos inspection requirements if the facility was built after October 12, 1988, and if the architect, project engineer or accredited inspector sign a statement attesting that no asbestos was specified or used in the construction of the building or buildings.

AHERA-designated person: Each school district must have a designated person who is responsible for ensuring the proper implementation of the AHERA requirements at the facility or facilities. These individual responsibilities may include maintaining the Asbestos Management Plan and performing asbestos surveillance every 6 months.

Asbestos inspection: AHERA requires public and non-profit schools to perform an original asbestos inspection to determine whether asbestos-containing materials are present at the facility. During the



inspection, an accredited asbestos professional will take samples to test for asbestos and conduct a physical assessment of the building materials.

Asbestos Management Plan: This plan provides details about who is responsible for overseeing asbestos management and provides documentation of the recommended asbestos response actions, the location of asbestos within the facility, and any action taken to repair or remove the material or materials.

Asbestos periodic surveillance: AHERA requires a periodic surveillance of all known asbestos-containing materials every 6 months. The surveillance confirms that the asbestos-containing materials have not been damaged or disturbed.

Asbestos reinspection: AHERA requires that all asbestos-containing materials identified in the original inspection are reinspected every 3 years. During a reinspection, an accredited asbestos professional checks the asbestos-containing materials to determine whether the condition of the material has changed because of damage, wear and tear, or deterioration.

Friable: This term refers to materials that would easily crumble or break apart if they are disturbed. If the material is friable, then asbestos-containing materials can become a hazard and lead to exposure.

National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) asbestos inspection: NESHAP is a set of standards established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to regulate hazardous air pollutants, including asbestos. NESHAP requires an accredited asbestos professional to inspect all facilities (not just schools) before a renovation or demolition to identify asbestos-containing materials.