Asbestos material is currently being removed from public buildings, businesses, schools, and households. Much of this material is disposed in landfill facilities that this Department regulates. (See the publication entitled “Approved Landfill Facilities That Will Accept Friable Asbestos-Containing Material for Disposal” on the Department’s website.)

The rules regulating the operation of landfill facilities are in Article 33.1-20 of the North Dakota Administrative Code. The Department’s Division of Waste Management administers these rules. Additionally, rules concerning asbestos in demolition renovation work and disposal are contained in Chapter 33.1-15-13, which is also administered by the Department’s Division of Waste Management.

The Department requires the disposal of asbestos within the state only into approved landfill facilities. A list of landfills accepting friable asbestos-containing material is attached. The landfill's owner or operator may choose not to take asbestos. Therefore, the Department recommends asbestos disposal is coordinated with the landfill owner/operator. Friable asbestos-containing material is approved for disposal into landfills that have agreed to accept the material and have appropriate facilities, procedures, equipment, and training for managing such waste.

Following are recommendations regarding the handling and disposal of asbestos-containing material in state-approved landfills:

1. Prior to shipping, friable asbestos-containing material must be wetted. Friable asbestos-containing material must be placed in leak-tight containers and be properly labeled. Containers should be carefully handled. Handling of regulated asbestos-containing material must be performed by certified asbestos personnel.

2. Disposal during periods of high winds should be avoided.

3. Disposal at the landfill should avoid areas of standing water and should not occur during periods of excessive precipitation.

4. Appropriate measures must be undertaken at the site to keep unauthorized personnel out of any areas being used for the disposal of asbestos-containing waste.

5. Precautions must be taken at the disposal site to minimize disturbance of the asbestos waste and to prevent disruption or breakage of containerized asbestos waste. After being carefully deposited within a landfill and prior to being compacted, friable asbestos and Category II nonfriable asbestos-containing material shall be covered by the end of each operating day with at least six inches of non-asbestos-containing material such as soil. Category I nonfriable asbestos-containing material may be spread prior to being covered but shall be covered by the end of each operating day with at least six inches of compacted non-asbestos-containing material such as soil. For landfills that operate continuously (24 hours per day), all asbestos waste shall be covered at least once every 24-hour period with at least six inches of non-asbestos-containing material such as soil. Areas used for asbestos disposal should not be disturbed or re-excavated.
6. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidelines and this Department recommend that a separate area or trench be designated for asbestos waste disposal.

7. After disposing of regulated asbestos-containing material, a completed waste manifest must be sent to the Division of Waste Management within ten (10) days of disposal.

8. Records must be maintained and filed to notify future landowners or interested parties as to the locations and quantities of the asbestos waste buried at the site. A notice on the deed to the property must state that the site is subject to regulation and should include precautions against any attempt to disturb that area.

For more information regarding asbestos removal or disposal, contact the Division of Waste Management at 701-328-5166 or visit https://deq.nd.gov/WM/