

**ADVISORY NO. 3.8: DRILLING INTO SOLID ASBESTOS CONTAINING  
MATERIAL ABATEMENT PROGRAM PLAN**

Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) has taken preliminary air samples involving drilling holes into Asbestos Containing Material (ACM) in plaster walls using a baffle attached to a drill and HEPA vacuum. The initial Excursion sampling results were:

Sample Dyer #1 0.0341 Fibers/cc  
Sample Dyer #2 0.0283 Fibers/cc

Both samples were below the Excursion Level of 1.0 fibers/cc. In addition to plaster any asbestos containing solid material (ex: transite insulation material) can also be drilled into using this baffle attachment. This procedure can be used for attaching brackets or other items to surfaces. **Before any drilling can proceed, prior approval of equipment is needed by EH&S.**

OSHA states that before a contractor begins any disturbance of ACM, initial monitoring should be performed to record if exposure meets or exceeds the Permissible Exposure Level (PEL) of 0.1 fibers/cc or the Excursion Limit (EL) of 1.0 fibers/cc (if data exists from another previous identical job it should be supplied to Environmental Health & Safety before activity begins). When airborne concentrations exceed the PEL or EL then respirators and protective clothing must be worn. If levels cannot be reduced below the PEL or EL then a negative-pressure enclosure must be erected around the area (exemption: small scale, short duration abatement). All high-speed cutting tools must be attached to HEPA vacuums before cutting into asbestos containing material. OSHA states that a competent person is required on site.

**DRILLING INTO SOLID ASBESTOS CONTAINING MATERIAL PROCEDURES:**

- All workers medical and training documents are to reviewed by EH&S prior to any activity.
- All Material Safety Data Sheets (M.S.D.S.) are to be reviewed by EH&S prior to any activity.
- All workers are to wear respirators and protective clothing.
- Regulated area must be demarcated and have restricted entry to authorized persons only.
- Prior to drilling into ACM walls or ceilings the area must be sprayed with shaving cream and the baffle fitted over the shaving cream to control the release of asbestos fibers into the air throughout the abatement, then have area cleaned.
- All ventilation openings are to be sealed off within the area along with all windows with plastic sheeting sealed with tape prior to abatement to prevent contamination to non-working areas.
- All high speed cutting tools must have HEPA filter ventilation or be attached to a HEPA vacuum and **must be approved by EH&S prior to use.**