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# How to Properly Remove Spray-on Popcorn Ceilings

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*Single-Family, Owner-Occupied Residences ONLY*

This publication details the steps necessary for the safe removal of an asbestos containing popcorn ceiling from a single-family, owner-occupied home. Be aware that no set of instructions can anticipate all possible situations and variables that a homeowner may encounter in an asbestos removal project.

It is essential that you read these instructions from start to finish, making sure you thoroughly understand them before cutting, scraping, or disturbing your popcorn ceiling in anyway. Failure to do so poses a severe health risk to you and your family.

The Northwest Clean Air Agency strongly recommends that you hire a state-certified asbestos abatement contractor. The Washington State Department of Labor and Industries keeps a list of certified instructors here: <http://www.lni.wa.gov/Safety/Topics/AtoZ/Asbestos/contractorlist.asp> However, if after reading this instruction manual, and you still choose to do the work yourself, it is critical that you follow each step completely and carefully—from site preparation to disposal, so that your removal project is effective, safe, and legal.

**Exposure to airborne asbestos may cause cancer or other lung diseases. Northwest Clean Air Agency assumes no liability or responsibility for house damage, injuries, illnesses or related health problems arising from you performing an asbestos removal project. You assume all risks involved.**

*Note: This publication is limited to the removal of popcorn ceilings, one of the four most common asbestos abatement projects attempted by homeowners. Northwest Clean Air Agency also provides free removal procedure information for asbestos-backed sheeting, asbestos-board siding, "octopus" furnace and duct insulation, and sheet vinyl flooring. To access this information, visit [www.nwcleanairwa.gov](http://www.nwcleanairwa.gov) or contact NWCAA at 360-428-1617.*

## Are you prepared to take on this project?

It is essential that you are aware of all the challenges and risks of tackling an asbestos removal project yourself. It can be time consuming, messy, expensive, and dangerous to your health, if not correctly performed.

Before you begin any asbestos removal project, you must be able to answer "yes" to all the following questions:

- **Are you sure your ceiling contains asbestos?**

Not all spray-on popcorn ceilings contain asbestos. To know for sure, submit a small sample for laboratory analysis. Cost for such testing is minimal, typically \$25-\$50 per sample. Laboratories are listed in the phone book yellow pages under "Asbestos--Consulting and Testing."

### To take a ceiling sample for lab analysis you will need to do the following:

- A spray bottle – Fill spray bottle with water mixed with a few drops of liquid detergent. Thoroughly wet three of four small ceiling areas. Allow time for the water to soak in.
- With a putty knife and wearing rubber gloves, carefully scrape about one square-inch of popcorn and place into a plastic resealed bag from each area.
- Take or send sample to local asbestos testing lab.

If the laboratory results are negative, meaning less than one-percent asbestos was found in the sample, take two additional samples and have them tested as well to confirm the analysis.

If you decide not to check for asbestos, assume the ceiling contains asbestos and treat it accordingly.

- **If your ceiling contains asbestos, is removal the best option?**

Asbestos is a problem only if fibers are released into the air. Popcorn ceilings containing asbestos that are in good repair and not disturbed by cuts or tears, will not release asbestos fibers. Hence, the safest easiest and least expensive option may be to leave your ceiling alone. Sometimes, it is possible to work around asbestos without removing it. For example, popcorn ceilings that are in good condition can usually be painted (spraying is recommended) to better encapsulate the fibers. However, be aware that painting these ceilings may prevent your from safely removing them in the future because do-it-yourself removal is highly dependent on your ability to thoroughly wet this material before disturbing it. Painting can seal the popcorn material, making it difficult or impossible to wet.

- **Are you prepared to accept the serious health risks associated with doing the asbestos removal yourself?**

*Airborne asbestosis is a serious health hazard.*

**Breathing asbestos fibers can cause lung cancer and other diseases.**

When disturbed, asbestos breaks down into fibers up to 1,200 times thinner than a human hair. If released into the air, asbestos cannot be seen and quickly circulates through your home. When inhaled, these fibers become trapped in lung tissues. Medical research tells us that up to 30 years after inhalation, asbestos fibers can cause **lung cancer, mesothelioma**, a related terminal cancer of the tissue that lines the chest cavity, and **asbestosis**, a condition that can lead to breathing problems and heart failure.

There is no known safe level of asbestos exposure. That's why medical, environmental health, and regulatory organizations stress the need to protect health by minimizing exposure to airborne asbestos fibers, particularly at elevated levels - such as can occur during a remodeling project.

**Without proper ventilation, equipment and body coverage at all times when working with asbestos, you or anyone in the vicinity of the removal area may be at serious risk.**

The removal procedures described in this publication are intended to help homeowners minimize health risks associated with do-it-yourself asbestos removals. However, it should be understood that with any removal project some release of asbestos fibers into the air is unavoidable and there are no known safe levels of asbestos exposure.

- **Are you prepared to assume the challenge of do-it-yourself asbestos removal and disposal?**

**The work will be difficult, requiring the purchase of safety equipment.**

Even under the best of circumstances, do-it-yourself asbestos projects can be physically demanding and potentially dangerous.

- ✓ **Breathing through a respirator is more difficult than normal breathing and places additional stress on heart and lungs.**
- ✓ **Protective clothing can be hot and uncomfortable.**
- ✓ **Work can involve ladders and high spaces.**
- ✓ **Eye protection often results in reduced visibility.**
- ✓ **Caution must be taken with wiring and electrical power because of all the water being used to wet the asbestos.**

As a homeowner, you do not have the specialized equipment, materials, and experience of an asbestos abatement contractor to perform this work. Unlike contractors, who have special machines with high-efficiency filters to remove fibers from the workplace air, you have few, if any, safety "back-ups" if something goes wrong.

**The work will be time consuming.**

The total time it takes to complete a cement asbestos board siding removal can be substantial. Time estimates for the completion of an average size (10x 10) room removal project are:

- ✓ **File a notification form and pay associated fee with the Northwest Clean Air Agency: (<http://nwcleanairwa.gov/permits-and-services/asbestos/>)**
- ✓ **Collect supplies - 1 day**
- ✓ **Set up containment area - 1 day**
- ✓ **Removal and clean-up - 2 days**
- ✓ **Disposal - 1 day**

- **Are you aware of the legal issues involved?**

### **During removal**

The law prohibits you from hiring anyone other than a certified asbestos abatement contractor to perform--or assist with-- asbestos removal work in your single-family residence. Family members and friends may participate, provided they do so on a voluntary, no-pay basis. Homeowners may remove asbestos themselves. But as stated above, this option is difficult, time-consuming, and dangerous to your health if prescribed work procedures are not strictly followed.

### **During disposal**

If you choose to remove asbestos yourself, you take on the legal liability of ensuring proper bagging (**labeled, double bagged in 6 mil thick plastics bags, sealed with duct tape**) and identification of asbestos debris, correct transport (in a covered vehicle), and disposal ONLY at disposal sites or transfer stations licensed to receive such waste. These regulations are intended to protect your community from the harmful effects of asbestos.

The Washington State Department of Labor and Industries has regulations that may also apply. Call 1-360-902-5514 or visit: <http://www.lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/LicensingReq/Asbestos/default.asp> for more information.

If you answered "No" to any of the above questions, and if you still wish to have asbestos removed from your home, **YOU MUST CONTACT A STATE-CERTIFIED ASBESTOS REMOVAL CONTRACTOR**. This is the **quickest, safest, and most reliable way to remove asbestos from your home**

## **BEFORE YOU BEGIN ASBESTOS REMOVAL...**

No set of instructions can address all possible situations and variables that a homeowner may encounter in an asbestos removal project. This publication is intended to address the common steps and most important issues involved in removing cement asbestos-board siding.

*Common sense dictates that unique and particularly challenging projects should not be undertaken by the homeowner. In such cases, avoid the possibility of asbestos contamination by abandoning the "do-it-yourself" approach and hiring a state-certified asbestos abatement contractor.*

These first two steps should be taken care of well before you start any area preparation.

### **1. Complete an application.**

Prior to removing asbestos, visit the Northwest Clean Air Agency website at [www.nwcleanairwa.gov](http://www.nwcleanairwa.gov) to download and submit a notification form for your asbestos removal project. Once your application is submitted and the appropriate fee is collected, the agency will issue you a case number. Once a case number has been assigned by the agency, the form becomes your permit to legally remove asbestos and dispose of it at specified asbestos disposal sites (**you must show this form when disposing of asbestos debris**). For additional information or direction you can call the Northwest Clean Air Agency at 360-428-1617.

## 2. Conduct a “wet” test.

Thorough wetting before, during, and after removal is critical for preventing the release of asbestos fibers into the air. If your popcorn ceiling has been painted, you will need to test whether water can adequately penetrate the paint and wet the asbestos containing material prior to the disturbance.

To conduct a wet test you will need: a spray bottle, liquid detergent, putty knife, one foot square piece of plastic, and rubber gloves.

- ✓ Fill a spray bottle with water and mix a teaspoon or less of liquid detergent in it.
- ✓ Spray water over a few square inches of ceiling. Do this in several different test areas.
- ✓ Allow 5-20 minutes for the water to soak in, re-spraying each test area 2-3 times more during this period.
- ✓ With a putty knife and wearing rubber gloves, carefully scrape off the material catching the debris on a piece of sheet plastic held in your other hand.
- ✓ Examine the removed popcorn carefully. It should be thoroughly wet.

If after numerous tries, you are unable to get the water to penetrate the paint and saturate the ceiling materials...**DO NOT UNDERTAKE THIS PROJECT!**

## 3. Gather essential personnel & supplies

### **WORKERS**

**It is illegal to hire anyone other than a state-certified asbestos abatement contractor to perform, or assist in, the removal of asbestos.**

Three people are needed for the asbestos removal job: two homeowners should perform the removal work, and a third person should be “standing by” outside the work area to provide water, tools, and other supplies as needed, while the work is in progress. This will minimize the need for people inside the containment area to remove their disposable clothing and put on new clothing for each exit and entrance to the work area.

### ● **PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND CLOTHING**

During removal, all workers must be protected from breathing or spreading asbestos fibers. Each person must wear an appropriate respirator, disposable coveralls, goggles, disposable gloves and rubber boots. Before beginning your project, you'll need to obtain the following items.

**Check your phone book yellow pages under "Safety Equipment and Clothing" for a list of safety equipment vendors.** Note which items must be purchased at special stores (i.e. safety equipment store) which carry approved health and safety equipment used for asbestos removal and which may be widely available.

**A) Respirators** -- Half-face, dual-cartridge respirators, each equipped with a pair of HEPA filters (color coded purple) are required. One respirator is required for each person working within the removal area.

Respirators provide little protection if they do not fit properly, so request a fit test from the vendor.

**Persons with beards often cannot be adequately fitted with this type of respirator and should not work within contaminant areas.**

**B ) Coveralls** -- Several pairs of disposable coveralls with built in booties should be purchased for each person who will be in the work area. Oversized coveralls make it easier for workers to move around.

NEW COVERALLS WILL BE NEEDED FOR EACH ENTRY INTO THE REMOVAL AREA. Every time a worker leaves a removal area, coveralls should be wetted and disposed of in a properly sealed asbestos disposal bag.

**C ) Rubber boots** - Lace less, pull-on rubber boots without fasteners will protect coverall booties so they do not wear through. Rubber boots can be washed off later or disposed of as contaminated debris.

**D ) Eye protection** - Each worker performing cement asbestos-board siding removal work should be equipped with non-fogging goggles or other safety-approved eyewear protection.

**E ) Rubber gloves** - Several pairs of durable, disposable rubber gloves should be purchased for each worker. Rubber gloves must be worn by each person working within the removal area.



**NEW GLOVES ARE REQUIRED WITH EACH RE-ENTRY INTO THE REMOVAL AREA.** Every time a worker leaves a removal area during a project, these gloves should be wetted and disposed of in an asbestos disposal bag.

## **TOOLS AND SUPPLIES**

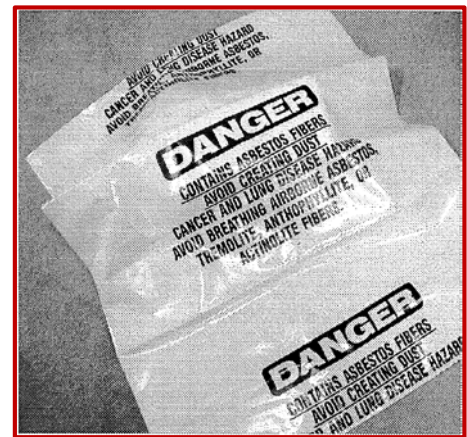
**A) Tank sprayer (2-3 gallons)** - This will be your means of wetting exposed asbestos-containing materials.

**B) Garden hose with automatic shut-off nozzle.** A hose equipped with an automatic shut-off spray nozzle, will be needed to supply water at the entrance to the work area.

**C) Liquid dishwashing detergent** - Mixed at 1 cup per 5 gallons of water for best results in wetting.

**D) Removaltools:**

- A putty knife with a 4-6 inch blades, work best at scraping off popcorn ceiling materials.
- Wallboardtaping – to attach plastic sheeting to walls.
- A knife or scissors to cut polyethylene sheeting.



**E) Six-mil Polyethylene plastic sheeting** - This will be used to create a containment areas. You will need enough 2 or 3 mil plastic sheeting to cover one-and-a-half times the area of the walls and enough 6 mil plastic sheeting to cover three times the area of the floors in the work area.

**G) Asbestos waste disposal bags** - These special bags will be used to contain asbestos contaminated debris and materials. The bags should be sized 33 inches by 50 inches and be made of 6-mil polyethylene. Each should be pre-printed with required asbestos warnings



**H) Asbestos waste disposal stickers** - These special stickers can be used to tag larger items of debris that do not fit in the bags, but are double wrapped and taped in plastic.

**I) Permanent marker pen** - You must write your last name, address, and removal date on each waste disposal bag or sticker.

**J) Duct tape** - Numerous rolls will be needed for sealing waste disposal bags (*twist top of bag, and wrap tape around twisted area – see illustration listed below*) and holding some of the removal area plastic in place.



**K) Clean, disposable rags** - A large supply should be on hand for assorted removal and clean-up purposes.



L) **Bucket**-You will need a bucket for washing tools at the end of the project.

M) **Ladder** with cushioned legs – if you need a ladder to reach the ceiling areas, you will need to wrap and tape rags or foam around the ladder legs, so they do not puncture the plastic on the floor of the containment area.

N) **Sealing paint** – These could be latex primer paint or an approved latex asbestos sealing product. They will be used for encapsulating areas after popcorn materials have been scraped off.

## SITE PREPARATION

### 4. Prepare the house

- Post signs warning friends, family, and other visitors who might visit unexpectedly to stay well away from the work area. Make sure pets cannot come near the work site.

***TIP:** To minimize damage to wallpaper, consider using slender finishing nails to secure a small strip of wood (like screen molding) to the top of the wall.*

- Remove all furniture from the room(s) where the popcorn removal is to take place.
- Turn off heating and air conditioning systems.
- Tape all light switches in the off position.
- Turn off electrical power to all ceiling light fixtures in the project area, and then remove them. After removal, seal exposed wires with electrical tape. Be careful not to disturb the popcorn material during these activities.
- Remove any smoke alarms or other devices attached to or near the ceiling, once again be careful not to disturb popcorn material.

### 5. Build a containment area

- **You need to contain asbestos** debris by constructing a plastic containment area around the ceiling areas you wish to remove. This is accomplished by covering the walls and floors within the project room(s) to ensure all debris is captured and remains on plastic sheeting during the removal process.
- **Cover the floors** with 6 mil polyethylene plastic sheeting throughout the area of the house where the popcorn ceiling is to be removed. Place the sheets so that they overlap room edges by about a foot. Run the extra foot of sheeting up each wall and tape all edges there securely. ***DO NOT PULL TIGHT!*** Make sure there's plenty of excess plastic so that the plastic won't pull away from the walls when you're working near room corners and edges.
- **Tightly seal all floor seams** between sheets of plastic with duct tape. If popcorn is to be removed from rooms that are joined by halls or spaces where no removal is to take place, lay 6 mil plastic sheets on the floor to create a path on which to walk between containment



areas.

- Make sure the plastic sheets overlap and extend to the floor.
- **Hang polyethylene plastic sheeting on the walls**, approximately 1 inch down from the ceiling, with duct tape. SMOOTH THE DUCT TAPE FOR A TIGHT SEAL. Make sure the plastic sheets overlap and extend to the floor. Seal all wall seams with duct tape. To minimize damage to wallpaper, consider using slender finishing nails to secure a small strip of wood (like screen molding) to the top of the wall and then hang the plastic sheets from the wood strip using duct tape.
- **Hang these instructions** like a calendar, using a piece of duct tape, a nail, and the hole at the top. Select an accessible location within the containment area away from where you will be spraying water. To prevent tears in the plastic, place a small piece of duct tape on the plastic sheeting at the location where you hammer a nail to hang the instructions.
- **Lay a second layer** of LOOSE 6 mil plastic on the floor. In larger rooms, install this second layer in pieces of 100-120 square feet. Lay the plastic in a loose, generously overlapping manner. DO NOT SEAL EDGES OF THIS SHEET WITH TAPE.
- **Construct plastic isolation walls** in doorways or room openings. It may be necessary to separate the work area from the rest of the house by sealing the openings with 6 mil plastic.
- **Create a secure entry/exit point.** If there is a door the outside within the containment area, make this your designated point of entry and exit to the work area. Open the door and seal the doorway with 6 mil plastic. Create an entrance / exit through the plastic by cutting a 5-6 foot vertical slit in the plastic and covering it on the inside with a plastic flap. Then lay down a sheet of 6 mil polyethylene plastic outside the door.
- If there is not exit door to the outside from the containment area, **create an entrance / exit within the house** either through a door or through an isolation wall following the instructions listed above.
- **Label asbestos removal bags** using a permanent marker pen. Write your last name, address, and date of removal on each bag.
- **Place supplies at the entry / exit** point. At a minimum, have a water sprayer bottle, clean wet rags, a bucket, and asbestos wasted disposal bags—at any entry / exit location.
- **Check you work.** Once you've completed the plastic containment, make sure the entire area where the removal is to take place is isolated with polyethylene sheeting. The only exposed surfaces with the containment should be the ceiling and about an inch or less of wall below the ceilings. This ensures that all asbestos material is contained during removal.

## ASBESTOS REMOVAL

### 6. Wet the ceiling

*Windows may be opened for ventilation. However, regulations require that there be no emissions to the outside air. Construct and tape an oversized plastic flap over the inside of each open window to ensure no debris passes through the windows.*

- **Thorough wetting is critical** to keep asbestos fibers out of the air. If your ceiling is painted

and the wet test you conducted in step 2 failed to thoroughly saturate with water the popcorn to the ceiling substrate, **DO NOT PROCEED**. Leave the ceiling alone or hire an asbestos abatement contractor to do the work.

- Mix liquid detergent with the water at a ratio of 1 cup to 5 gallons of water.
- Spray the ceiling with the liquid detergent and water mixture using the tank sprayer. Spray the popcorn material enough times, according to the results of your wet test in step 2, to ensure the ceiling will be saturated with water before removal.
- Wait 15-20 minutes for the water to thoroughly penetrate the ceiling material. Spray-on popcorn material is very porous and absorbs a lot of water, so keep applying water during this time.

***TIP:** If you must leave the plastic containment area during the project, use the spray bottle to wet down and remove protective equipment and clothing while standing on the plastic just outside the entrance/exit to the work area. Place coveralls and gloves in a waste disposal bag. Then step off the plastic. Upon returning put on new coveralls and gloves.*

## 7. Put on protective clothing and equipment

- **Put on coveralls, gloves goggles, and respirator.** Those who will enter the containment area to do the removal must pull on disposable coveralls outside the containment area while standing on the entrance / exit plastic. They should then put on gloves, goggles, and respirators equipped with HEPA filters.
- **Tape your gloves to your disposable coverall** sleeves around the wrists to ensure your arms and wrists remain covered.

***TIP:** If someone outside the containment area is not available to refill sprayers, you may need a garden hose with an automatic shut-off nozzle at the entrance to the plastic enclosure for refilling the tank sprayer(s).*



## 8. Test ceiling for water saturation

- Enter the containment area only when **fully clothed** in protective gear.
- **Test for wetness** by scraping off a few inches of ceiling material. If it is thoroughly wet to the gypsum board or other ceiling substrate underneath, you are ready to begin removing the popcorn material. **IF THE MATERIAL IS NOT THOROUGHLY WET, REPEAT STEP 6**, re-applying water with detergent and allowing time for it to soak in.
- If after more applications of water, you are still unable to thoroughly wet this material, **do not proceed**. Use a state certified asbestos abatement contract (The Washington State Department of Labor and Industries keeps a list of certified contractors, you can access this list at: <http://www.lni.wa.gov/Safety/Topics/AtoZ/Asbestos/contractorlist.asp> ).

## 9. Scrape off popcorn

- **Keep plastic of floor and walls wet at all times** by periodically spraying the to prevent any debris from drying and becoming airborne.
- **Cushion ladder legs** by wrapping them with rags or a similar material, thereby preventing them from puncturing the plastic sheeting on the floor.
- **Thoroughly scrape the spray-on popcorn** material from the ceiling using a 4-6 inch putty or wallboard taping knife. Allow the debris to fall onto the plastic sheets below.
- **Wipe any remaining ceiling residue** off with clean wet rags. Turn rags frequently, so that you are wiping a clean surface. Otherwise, remaining asbestos material will be smeared around but not removed. If the ceiling beneath is painted, wet wiping is very effective. With unfinished sheetrock, wiping is helpful but less effective.
- **Use clean rags** to wet wipe the exposed portion of the wall between the top of the duct tape and the ceiling.
- **Dispose of all rags** in an asbestos waste disposal bag. Do not try to rinse contaminated rags.
- If your popcorn ceiling was applied as part of original house construction, the ceiling was likely never finished for painting. Thus, even if you did no damage during the popcorn removal, you **will likely need to refinish or re-texture the ceiling** before painting. Sanding the ceiling would result in remaining asbestos fibers being released into the air.

*Under NO circumstances should you sand ceilings after removal of spray-on popcorn material.*

## CLEANING UP

### 10. Remove loose plastic and debris from the floor(s)

- Once removed, **asbestos debris should be kept wet** until packaged and sealed for

disposal.

- **Fold and roll up top layer of loose floor plastic.** After you've removed all the popcorn ceiling material in one room within the containment area, carefully fold and roll up the top layer of loose plastic sheets that contain fallen debris.



- **Double-bag the folded plastic**, along with the ceiling debris it contains, into pre-marked asbestos waste disposal bags. The top level of the floor plastic was put down in 100-120 square foot sections, plastic, plus wetted popcorn material on this square footage may be quite heavy, and may be all you want to carry in a single double-bagged container. Plastic and material will need to be placed in

marked 6 mil plastics bags, twisted into a J wrap and sealed with duct tape. Follow this process of each room.

- **Wipe down all tools** and ladders with clean wet rags after removing all asbestos material from the project enclosure.
- **Dispose of all contaminated wipe rags** as asbestos debris.
- Place **tools in bucket** or plastic bag for more thorough cleaning later.
- **Apply ceiling encapsulate** to seal in residual asbestos. In spite of your best efforts to thoroughly remove the asbestos fibers, some fibers will remain. Before you remove any plastics sheets that are taped to the walls and floor, encapsulate any residual asbestos on those ceiling areas from which popcorn material has been removed. Roll or spray these areas with latex primer paint or an approved latex asbestos sealant.  
**ANY FUTURE CEILING FINISHING WORK SHOULD NOT INVOLVE SANDING THESE SURFACES.**

## 11. Remove wall and floor plastic

- **Spray plastic walls with water** one last time, making sure any visible asbestos debris is thoroughly wet.
- **Plan your final exit.** It is critical that you dismantle and bag the containment area in such a way that the last piece of plastic upon which you're standing is the plastic sheet you placed on the floor outside the entrance / exit to the containment area. Place plenty of asbestos disposal bags and duct tape along your exit route.
- **Beginning at the point most distant** from your containment entrance / exit, remove all plastic. First, peel the plastic off the walls and lower them onto the floor. Then carefully roll up the plastic on the floor, being careful that all debris stays contained within the plastic. Work toward your exit. Stay on the plastic flooring at all times during this process. In larger rooms, you may need to bag the wall plastic separately to avoid creating a bundle of plastic too large for the bag. Roll and fold the plastic sheeting toward you while remaining on the plastic.



- Place each roll of contaminated plastic inside an asbestos waste disposal bag.

- Place each bag of asbestos debris into a second, clean bag, carefully securing each by twisting the tops, bending the twisted part over and securing with duct tape.

## 12. Decontaminate

- Stand on the last piece of plastic sheeting outside the entry / exit door. **Spray yourself** (or each other) with water to wet down any asbestos debris / fibers on the outside of your respirator and disposable coveralls.
- **Remove boots.** Double bag them in asbestos waste disposal bags for disposal or should you want to keep them, remove any accumulations of popcorn material and set them aside on the plastic sheet for further cleaning.
- **Remove your disposable gloves and coveralls** by peeling them off and turning them inside out as you remove them. Double bag them in asbestos waste disposal bags. Step off the last plastic sheet.
- **Remove respirators and take out their filters.** Discard the filters with other asbestos waste. Using clean wet rags, wipe down your respirator, goggles, tools used in the removal, and if you elect to keep them, your boots. Place your respirator, goggles, and tools in the bucket and your boots in a plastic bag for washing later.
- **Use wet rags for any further clean-up.**
- **Double bag all remaining debris,** including all cleaning rags, disposable items, and the last plastic sheet in asbestos disposal bags. Twist top of bags, fold over, and seal with duct tape.
- **Take a shower.**

***NEVER attempt to vacuum or sweep up asbestos debris. This will cause any fibers present to become airborne in your home.***

## DISPOSAL

### 13. Remove Prepare and check disposal bags

- **All debris must be properly packaged** for disposal: double bagged, pre-labeled, 6 mil plastic bags designed specifically for asbestos waste disposal. Tops should be securely sealed. If you haven't already done so, use a permanent marker to write your last name, address, and date of removal on each bag.

### 14. Transfer bags to an approved disposal site

- You will **need a copy of your Northwest Clean Air Agency notification permit**, with its assigned case number, otherwise the disposal station will not accept your waste.
- All double-bagged or wrapped debris must be hauled to the disposal site or transfer station in a covered vehicle **within 10 calendar days** of being generated. Must be stored in a secure area, such as a locked basement or garage.

*Asbestos debris from an asbestos project, must be disposed of only at disposal sites or transfer stations licensed to receive such waste. A list of sites can be found at:  
<http://nwcleanairwa.gov/permits-and-services/asbestos/>  
Call individual sites for disposal fees.*