



Guidance Note

May 2007

Burnishers

HWG-006

This information is for your use and as a way of providing consistent information. There is no response required.

Use of Burnishers - Considerations

The use of burnishers to strip and polish floors can represent a potential hazard related to the release of asbestos fibers. Use of high speed burnishers (>300 RPM) on floor tile or linoleum that contains asbestos fibers have the potential to release asbestos fibers. To minimize this risk, only burnishers operating at less than 300 RPM should be used on flooring containing asbestos material. The following is a listing of buildings where the floor tile or linoleum is known or suspected to contain asbestos material:

1. Research Bridge Hallways (All floors)
2. School of Nursing Hallways (Old Building -All Floors)
3. Old Child Daycare (Old Gym and Lunchroom)
4. School of Dentistry Hallway (Basement)
5. JFK Hallways (All Floors)

Note: It should be recognized that **not** all possible areas have been listed above and that any 9" X 9" floor tile should always be suspected and treated as containing asbestos. If there are any questions regarding specific campus locations contact EH&S at 4-0345.

Care of asbestos-containing flooring material is to comply with the following practices:

- Sanding of flooring known to contain asbestos-containing material (ACM) is prohibited.
- Stripping of finishes shall be conducted using low abrasion pads at speeds lower than 300 RPM using wet methods.
- Burnishing or dry buffing may be performed only on flooring that has sufficient finish so that the pad cannot contact the flooring material.