

thermal system insulation



Thermal System Insulation (TSI) is material applied to pipes, boilers, tanks, ducts, etc. to prevent heat loss, heat gain, or water condensation. TSI that contains asbestos (otherwise referred to as an Asbestos Containing Material (ACM)) represents a potential health hazards when disturbed during housekeeping, maintenance, and construction activities.

Asbestos insulation was produced in the United States primarily between 1866 and 1978. According to OSHA, TSI manufactured prior to 1980 should be presumed to contain asbestos unless verified by an accredited inspector.

Asbestos was commonly used in several TSI products such as:

- Corrugated layered paper on pipe runs and commonly referred to as Air Cell
- Mudded joints and fittings commonly referred to as Thermal Magnesia
- Duct paper insulation
- Boiler or Furnace Jackets consisting of asbestos blocks and/or mud

Asbestos is a naturally occurring silicate mineral mined from the earth. There are generally six minerals that are regulated as asbestos, Chrysotile, Amosite, Crocidolite, Tremolite, Anthophyllite, and Actinolite. In order for an asbestos product to be regulated it must contain greater than 1% asbestos. TSI historically contained 15% to 85% asbestos.

Prolonged inhalation of asbestos fibers can cause serious and fatal illnesses including lung cancer, mesothelioma, and asbestosis (a type of pneumoconiosis). Illness from asbestos exposure can be found in records dating back to Roman times. Concern in modern times began in the 20th century and escalated during the 1920s and 1930s. By the 1980s and 1990s, asbestos trade and use were heavily restricted, phased out, or banned outright in an increasing number of countries.

Due to the age of ACMs in homes and commercial buildings, the condition of the TSI is typically deteriorated and damaged becoming unsafe. If TSI is compromised or will be potentially compromised by working in or around areas in which it exists, it should be abated by a licensed asbestos abatement contractor. Abatement methods include Removal and Replacement, Encapsulation with pipe lagging or liquid products, and enclosure.

Abide, Inc. is an accredited asbestos abatement contractor licensed in Connecticut and Massachusetts with over 25 years of experience dealing with the safe removal of asbestos containing materials. For more information on asbestos, please visit our web page and feel free to call our office to schedule a free estimate.

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