

Asbestos risk from brake and clutch repairs

Most brake pads and clutch plates are covered with asbestos, a nearly indestructible, heat resistant mineral. During use the asbestos wears off and dust collects inside the housings. When asbestos fibers like these get into the human body they can cause lung disease and lung and other cancers.

Workers servicing heavy duty trucks had the highest asbestos exposures found in a study by the US Department of Health and Human Services. The study also found that if dust inside drum and brake assemblies is removed and disposed of in a controlled manner, exposure can be minimized.

You can control asbestos using commercial enclosure devices or through a few simple techniques. These include segregating the area, wearing respirators, using industrial vacuums with high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters to remove dust, wearing protective coveralls and gloves, washing hands, and keeping food, drinks and smoking out of the area. Use vacuums or wet mopping for cleanup and dispose of waste according to EPA standards.

NEVER use compressed air or dry brushing for cleaning up dust.

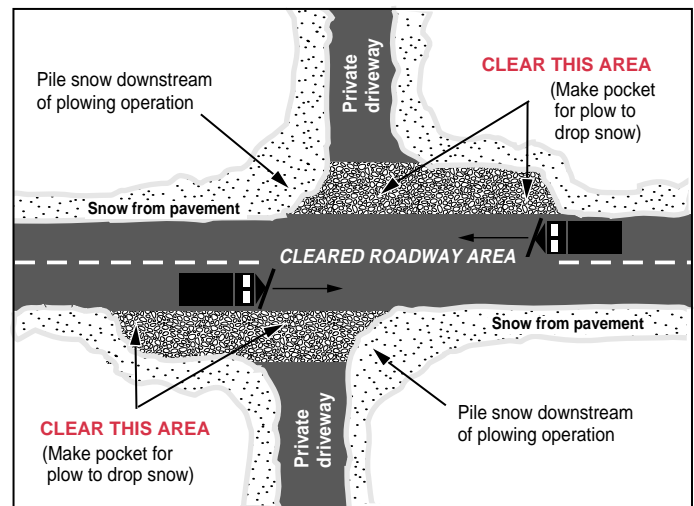
To learn specifics about asbestos protection in the workplace, phone, FAX or write the T.I.C. for a copy of **Asbestos in the workplace**, a factsheet from the South Dakota Transportation Technology Transfer Service.

Answering driveway complaints

As certainly as snow will fall this winter, you will hear from irate property owners about the snow plow windrow that filled up their nice, clean driveways.

There's nothing the plow driver can do to prevent this problem, but the homeowner may be able to help. From New Jersey comes the suggestion that the homeowner clear a pocket next to the driveway along the shoulder or curb. When the plow passes, it will dump most of its snow load into the pocket instead of the driveway.

An illustration and brief explanation are available from the T.I.C. You can reproduce it for callers or encourage your local papers to print it. This sympathetic response can help diffuse your customers' irritation.



For copies of **Keeping your driveway clear**, call, FAX, or write the T.I.C. using the form below.

Reader Response

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