

**ASBESTOS RELEASE DURING REMOVAL OF RESILIENT FLOOR
COVERING MATERIALS BY RECOMMENDED WORK PRACTICES OF THE
RESILIENT FLOOR COVERING INSTITUTE**

BY:

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This study assesses the asbestos levels observed during removal of resilient floor covering products using the "Recommended Work Practices" (1995) of the Resilient Floor Covering Institute or more protective methods (controls). Removals of sheet vinyl, 12" x 12" vinyl asbestos tile, 9" x 9" asphalt tiles and mastic were conducted. Bulk samples and air samples were analyzed by Polarized Light Microscopy, Phase Contrast Microscopy and Analytical Transmission Electron Microscopy-Yamate Level II protocol. Only a small number (0.7%) of fibers and structures counted by Transmission Electron Microscopy would be counted by Phase Contrast Microscopy as per the method specified by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations. This poses a serious problem because all of the fibers and greater than 90% of the fiber bundles were respirable. These data illustrate the exposure potential during the removal methods tested and supports the necessity of controlling asbestos emission from such sources in order to protect human health and the environment.

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