

# Maryland Asbestos Practice Exam (Sample)

## Study Guide



**Everything you need from our exam experts!**

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# Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

**Remember:** successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

# How to Use This Guide

**This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:**

## **1. Start with a Diagnostic Review**

**Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.**

## **2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions**

**Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.**

## **3. Learn from the Explanations**

**After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.**

## **4. Track Your Progress**

**Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.**

## **5. Simulate the Real Exam**

**Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.**

## **6. Repeat and Review**

**Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.**

**There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!**

## Questions

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- 1. What is one of the training requirements for employees who handle asbestos in Maryland?**
  - A. Completion of a high school diploma**
  - B. Completion of an accredited asbestos training program**
  - C. Certification in environmental science**
  - D. Ongoing education every five years**
  
- 2. To whom does the responsibility of documenting worker exposure primarily fall?**
  - A. The contractor**
  - B. The building owner**
  - C. The site supervisor**
  - D. The construction manager**
  
- 3. In which year must buildings be constructed to potentially contain PACM?**
  - A. 1980**
  - B. 1990**
  - C. 2000**
  - D. 2010**
  
- 4. What indicates a need for an asbestos inspection?**
  - A. Recent renovations only**
  - B. Age of the building and visible damage to materials**
  - C. Increased utility costs**
  - D. Availability of local contractors**
  
- 5. What is the acceptable airborne asbestos fiber concentration in public areas according to Maryland regulations?**
  - A. Less than 0.1 fibers per cubic centimeter**
  - B. Less than 0.5 fibers per cubic centimeter**
  - C. Less than 0.01 fibers per cubic centimeter**
  - D. Less than 1 fiber per cubic centimeter**

- 6. Which of the following is a common use for surfactants in asbestos abatement?**
- A. To enhance odor masking substances**
  - B. To increase fire resistance**
  - C. To improve water's ability to penetrate materials**
  - D. To speed up the drying process of materials**
- 7. What does encapsulation involve in asbestos management?**
- A. The use of paint or glue to secure friable asbestos fibers**
  - B. Removing asbestos materials completely from the site**
  - C. Capping asbestos with concrete or other materials**
  - D. Sealing off the area with plastic sheeting**
- 8. Why is it essential to employ a licensed asbestos handler?**
- A. To ensure compliance with local building codes**
  - B. To ensure compliance with safety regulations and proper handling of hazardous materials**
  - C. To reduce costs of asbestos removal**
  - D. To allow for quicker renovations**
- 9. How can asbestos fibers enter the lung?**
- A. Through skin contact with asbestos materials**
  - B. Through ingestion of contaminated food**
  - C. Through inhalation during disturbance of asbestos-containing materials**
  - D. Through exposure to asbestos in water**
- 10. What is the significance of using water during asbestos removal?**
- A. To enhance visibility for workers**
  - B. To suppress dust and prevent fiber release**
  - C. To make the materials easier to handle**
  - D. To cool the temperature of the environment**

## Answers

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1. B
2. B
3. A
4. B
5. C
6. C
7. A
8. B
9. C
10. B

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## **Explanations**

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**1. What is one of the training requirements for employees who handle asbestos in Maryland?**

- A. Completion of a high school diploma**
- B. Completion of an accredited asbestos training program**
- C. Certification in environmental science**
- D. Ongoing education every five years**

In Maryland, one of the primary training requirements for employees who handle asbestos is the successful completion of an accredited asbestos training program. This program provides essential knowledge and skills needed to safely manage asbestos-related activities, which include recognition of asbestos materials, safe handling practices, and understanding regulatory standards. Such training is necessary to minimize health risks associated with asbestos exposure, as it prepares workers to identify potential hazards and respond appropriately to ensure their own safety and the safety of others in the environment where they work. While other options may seem relevant, they do not align with the specific legal and regulatory requirements set forth for asbestos handling in Maryland. A high school diploma is not specifically mandated for asbestos training; certification in environmental science does not equate to the specialized training required for asbestos handling; and while ongoing education is important, the specific requirement is focused on the initial completion of an accredited program rather than a recurring educational component every five years.

**2. To whom does the responsibility of documenting worker exposure primarily fall?**

- A. The contractor**
- B. The building owner**
- C. The site supervisor**
- D. The construction manager**

The responsibility of documenting worker exposure primarily falls to the building owner. This duty is grounded in the regulatory framework surrounding asbestos management, which mandates that building owners are responsible for ensuring the safety and health of workers on their properties. Under laws and regulations regarding hazardous materials, it is the building owner's responsibility to maintain comprehensive records of any known asbestos presence and the associated exposure risks. While contractors, site supervisors, and construction managers play significant roles in the implementation of safety protocols and procedures, they are usually acting on behalf of the building owner or in accordance with the policies put in place by the owner. Therefore, the underlying accountability for documenting and managing worker exposure to asbestos rests with the building owner, who bears the ultimate legal and ethical obligation to protect workers and ensure compliance with safety regulations.

**3. In which year must buildings be constructed to potentially contain PACM?**

- A. 1980**
- B. 1990**
- C. 2000**
- D. 2010**

Buildings constructed before 1980 are considered to potentially contain Presumed Asbestos-Containing Material (PACM). This timeframe is critical because asbestos was commonly used in numerous building materials, such as insulation, flooring, and ceiling tiles, up until regulations and bans began to take effect in the late 1970s. As a result, structures built during or before this period are often assessed for the presence of PACM. Options referencing years after 1980, such as 1990, 2000, or 2010, reflect a time when the usage of asbestos in construction materials had significantly declined due to increasing awareness of health risks and the implementation of stricter regulations. Consequently, buildings from these later years are less likely to contain asbestos and therefore do not qualify for the designation of PACM.

**4. What indicates a need for an asbestos inspection?**

- A. Recent renovations only**
- B. Age of the building and visible damage to materials**
- C. Increased utility costs**
- D. Availability of local contractors**

The need for an asbestos inspection is most clearly indicated by the age of the building combined with visible damage to its materials. Asbestos was widely used in construction materials until the late 1970s, so older buildings are more likely to contain asbestos-containing materials (ACMs). If there is visible damage—such as fraying insulation, crumbling flooring, or deteriorating tiles—this becomes a critical factor since damaged materials can release asbestos fibers into the air, posing serious health risks. Therefore, assessing the conditions of older buildings and identifying damage is essential for determining the need for an asbestos inspection. Considering the other options: while recent renovations can indicate potential disturbance of asbestos materials, they do not provide the same level of certainty about the presence of ACMs as the age of the building and visible damage do. Increased utility costs may point to inefficiencies in the building but do not directly relate to asbestos presence. The availability of local contractors is also irrelevant when determining the need for an inspection. The key indicators are the building's age and the physical state of its materials.

**5. What is the acceptable airborne asbestos fiber concentration in public areas according to Maryland regulations?**

- A. Less than 0.1 fibers per cubic centimeter**
- B. Less than 0.5 fibers per cubic centimeter**
- C. Less than 0.01 fibers per cubic centimeter**
- D. Less than 1 fiber per cubic centimeter**

The acceptable airborne asbestos fiber concentration in public areas according to Maryland regulations is less than 0.01 fibers per cubic centimeter. This standard is crucial for protecting public health because even low levels of asbestos exposure can pose significant health risks, including lung diseases and cancers. The stringent limit helps ensure that concentrations are kept to a minimum, reflecting a commitment to creating safer environments where individuals spend time. Achieving and maintaining such a low concentration helps to mitigate the risk of adverse health outcomes associated with asbestos exposure. By setting the threshold at this level, Maryland regulations align with best practices in environmental health and safety, prioritizing the well-being of the public and minimizing the likelihood of asbestos-related health issues.

**6. Which of the following is a common use for surfactants in asbestos abatement?**

- A. To enhance odor masking substances**
- B. To increase fire resistance**
- C. To improve water's ability to penetrate materials**
- D. To speed up the drying process of materials**

Surfactants play a crucial role in asbestos abatement by improving water's ability to penetrate materials. This enhanced penetration is vital because adequately wetting asbestos-containing materials helps in controlling dust and reducing the risk of airborne fibers during the abatement process. By lowering the surface tension of water, surfactants allow it to more effectively saturate surfaces, which is essential for both the safety of workers and the efficacy of asbestos removal. Utilizing surfactants in this way also ensures that the asbestos material is properly contained and mitigates the risk of contamination, maintaining a safer environment for both abatement professionals and surrounding areas. This makes the use of surfactants an integral part of the procedures involved in safely managing asbestos containment and removal.

## 7. What does encapsulation involve in asbestos management?

- A. The use of paint or glue to secure friable asbestos fibers**
- B. Removing asbestos materials completely from the site**
- C. Capping asbestos with concrete or other materials**
- D. Sealing off the area with plastic sheeting**

Encapsulation in asbestos management primarily involves applying a material, such as paint or glue, to secure friable asbestos fibers and prevent their release into the air. The main goal of encapsulation is to isolate the asbestos, making it less hazardous by containing the fibers and inhibiting their ability to become airborne. This method is often preferred in situations where removal is not feasible or poses a greater risk than leaving the materials in place and managing them safely. The other options refer to different asbestos management strategies. Complete removal involves taking out asbestos materials entirely from a structure, which can be disruptive and costly. Capping with concrete or other materials can serve as a method of containment, but it's more about physically covering the asbestos rather than securing it. Sealing off an area with plastic sheeting is a form of containment used during removal or abatement activities, not encapsulation itself. Each method has its applications and considerations, but encapsulation specifically targets the stabilization and sealing of existing asbestos to minimize exposure risk.

## 8. Why is it essential to employ a licensed asbestos handler?

- A. To ensure compliance with local building codes**
- B. To ensure compliance with safety regulations and proper handling of hazardous materials**
- C. To reduce costs of asbestos removal**
- D. To allow for quicker renovations**

Employing a licensed asbestos handler is vital primarily for ensuring compliance with safety regulations and proper handling of hazardous materials. Asbestos is a known carcinogen, and its improper handling can pose significant health risks not only to workers but also to occupants of the building and the surrounding community. Licensed professionals are trained to follow stringent safety protocols, use appropriate protective equipment, and implement containment measures to minimize the risk of asbestos exposure during removal or abatement processes. They also have the knowledge to dispose of asbestos waste in accordance with environmental regulations, which is crucial in preventing contamination. While local building codes may play a role in the broader context of construction and renovation projects, the immediate health and safety concerns related to asbestos handling underscore the necessity of using licensed professionals. Reducing costs and speeding up renovations may be appealing, but these factors should never take precedence over safety and compliance with regulatory standards. Licensed asbestos handlers help mitigate the dangers associated with asbestos, ensuring that health and safety are prioritized.

## 9. How can asbestos fibers enter the lung?

- A. Through skin contact with asbestos materials
- B. Through ingestion of contaminated food
- C. Through inhalation during disturbance of asbestos-containing materials**
- D. Through exposure to asbestos in water

Asbestos fibers primarily enter the lungs through inhalation, particularly during activities that disturb asbestos-containing materials. When such materials are damaged or disturbed—whether through construction, renovation, or demolition—tiny asbestos particles can become airborne. If individuals are present in the vicinity, they can breathe in these fibers, leading to potential health risks such as asbestosis, lung cancer, and mesothelioma. Inhalation is the most common and significant route of exposure, especially since asbestos fibers are microscopic and can remain suspended in the air for extended periods. This makes proximity to asbestos disturbances particularly dangerous. The other options involve routes that are either less likely or not recognized as significant pathways for asbestos exposure. Skin contact does not result in the inhalation of asbestos fibers, and while ingestion of contaminated food is a concern for various contaminants, it is not a recognized pathway for asbestos entry into the lungs specifically. Similarly, while exposure to asbestos in water might occur, the primary concern remains inhalation from airborne fibers, which is the critical factor in lung disease related to asbestos exposure.

## 10. What is the significance of using water during asbestos removal?

- A. To enhance visibility for workers
- B. To suppress dust and prevent fiber release**
- C. To make the materials easier to handle
- D. To cool the temperature of the environment

Using water during asbestos removal is significant primarily because it helps suppress dust and prevent the release of asbestos fibers into the air. Asbestos is a hazardous material, and when disturbed, it can create airborne fibers that pose serious health risks to workers and anyone nearby. By applying water, workers can dampen the materials, which reduces the likelihood of fibers becoming airborne, thus minimizing exposure and inhalation risks. In addition to reducing dust, the use of water can help maintain a safer working environment by controlling potential hazards. This practice is crucial as many regulations and safety guidelines emphasize the importance of containing asbestos fibers during removal operations to protect workers and the public. Other options focus on aspects that may not directly relate to safety during the removal process. While visibility is important, and handling may be facilitated by wet materials, the foremost objective when using water is to manage dust and prevent fiber release. Thus, the primary goal of water use in this context relates to health and safety measures essential for effective asbestos abatement.

## Next Steps

**Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.**

**As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.**

**If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at [hello@examzify.com](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://mdasbestos.examzify.com>**

**We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!**

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