
Vinyl removal information

As a company policy we do not remove vinyl installed before 1986. The reason for this is simple. Fear of breaking a law that concerns asbestos. We are not an asbestos abatement company. We are not qualified or insured to test for or remove any material that contains asbestos. Since we cannot test for it we have a policy that says we cannot remove vinyl put in homes before 1986.

One should understand that there are definite reasons why there is an asbestos removal law in the first place. In the removal process it is very difficult to protect the environment against shards of asbestos fiber floating in the air. As the asbestos is being ripped out tiny pieces of asbestos are thrown into the air. These tiny pieces are actually lighter than the air itself. However, when we breathe the ambient air we actually pull some of the asbestos into our lungs. The tiny pieces attach to our lungs and continually cut the inner walls. The scar tissue from our lungs healing themselves builds up over time and makes it very difficult to breathe. The way insurances are written today there is absolutely no protection for people breaking this law. You could be subject to both EPA and OSHA fines in addition to lawsuits being levied by the homeowner.

It is not illegal for the customer to remove this themselves. They are the home owner therefore any health risk they are taking is their responsibility. However, we cannot recommend to the customer that they remove this themselves. All we can do is say that the existing flooring cannot be present when we install the new flooring.

If the flooring is removed when we arrive we must also be aware of the dangers in the adhesive used when installing these floors were originally installed. In most cases the adhesive used when installing ACT carried more asbestos than the floor itself. Nailing or drilling through this will create as much contaminated silica as it would have in the first place.

The reasons we do not emboss and cover vinyl from this era are:

- 1- We cannot warrantee how long the existing vinyl will remain adhered to the subfloor. If the edges of the existing vinyl curl anywhere our install will curl with it and we will be unable to fix it. The existing Linoleum may not be curling now but we will be changing its environment which will cause issues in the future.
- 2- If there is something wrong with the vinyl we install we will not be able to remove it without calling an abatement company due to the age of the existing linoleum. The vinyl we install will be stuck to the existing linoleum to the point where it will come up when we try to remove the vinyl from it. Of course we would hope that this would never happen but taking a risk could end up costing down the road.

