ABATEMENT — GUIDE

How to choose an abatement contractor

Check credentials, define the work and keep a clear completion record.

Updated November 10, 2026

Start with an independent description of the work

Write down the building address, use, planned disturbance and areas involved. Collect existing surveys and reports. EPA notes that an asbestos assessment professional can inspect, sample and advise on the action needed. Ask whether the assessment covers all material that the project will disturb. [EPA home guidance]

Do not award a removal scope based only on a visual guess. Ask what evidence supports the proposed work and what remains unknown. Request a clear explanation of any management-in-place option.

Verify the exact business and role

Ask for the legal name, licence or certification number, issuing agency, class and expiry. Check the public agency record and keep its URL and the date checked. Use the agency contact route if the record is unclear. EPA advises checking training and accreditation and asking the relevant agencies about violations. [EPA home guidance]

Washington L&I lists asbestos-certified contractors. New York DOL links to an asbestos contractor listing. WorkSafeBC offers a licensed asbestos contractor resource. Each covers its own system. Membership in a trade directory is not a substitute for the credential needed for the work. [Washington L&I; New York DOL; WorkSafeBC]

Compare written scopes

Ask each bidder to use the same survey and marked work plan. Require an explanation of containment, occupant arrangements, cleanup, waste disposal, subcontractors and the completion process. EPA advises a written contract that specifies the work plan and applicable requirements. [EPA home guidance]

Ask who files notices and who checks completion. Require written approval for scope changes. Confirm what happens if hidden material is found. Ask for insurance information directly and confirm coverage with the issuer when needed.

Do not let a badge replace a check

A listing or paid badge on Abatement is not a licence, certification or recommendation. Use it to find contact and source details. Verify credentials before work begins. Ask for references from comparable work and speak to the references about scope, communication and completion records.

Keep the handover file

Request the agreed scope, amendments, survey, relevant notices, waste records and completion assessment. Ask what material remains and how future trades should be told about it. Keep the records with the building documents. The correct handover requirements depend on the authority and the project.

Sources

All sources below were fetched and checked on 2026-11-10. This is the check date, not a claim about publication date.

- EPA home guidance, accessed 2026-11-10.
- Washington L&I, accessed 2026-11-10.
- New York DOL, accessed 2026-11-10.
- WorkSafeBC, accessed 2026-11-10.

Frequently asked questions

Does this guide replace a project assessment?

No. Confirm the scope and current requirements with the responsible authority and a qualified professional.