

Common Pollution Exposures for Contractors

Following are some of the common pollution exposures faced by contractors:

- Mold can cause serious harm to building occupants as a result of your company's negligence or the negligence of a subcontractor working on your behalf.
- Failure to properly locate underground utilities and pipelines may lead to striking a line and cause leakage. Leakage can result in explosion, release of fumes, or mold.
- Explosions or fire from building materials can occur from improper use of paints and chemicals such as sealants, solvents, and corrosives.
- Hazardous job-site handling, mixing, storage, and disposal of solvents, paint, roofing polymers, or adhesives can lead to leakage or spills.
- Material movement can result in the spreading, inadvertent transport, or disposal of unknown contaminated water, soil or other materials.
- Job-site accidents can result in collisions with structures such as pole-mounted transformers, above ground tanks, pipelines, etc.
- Improper installation, handling, and disposal of basement or underground storage tanks can result in soil contamination at the job-site or disposal site.
- Maintenance errors in HVAC can result in airborne bacteria or carbon monoxide build up.
- Handling hazardous materials, such as asbestos, fiberglass, fluorescent bulbs, mercury, can lead to air pollution.
- Discarded woodwork or plaster from demolition/renovations may contain asbestos or lead-based paint.
- Overspray can move through ventilation units of neighboring buildings, causing noxious fumes.
- Extensive wastewater contamination of soils and groundwater can occur if demolition operations or plumbing installations and renovations are done without completely disconnecting sewer lines.
- Storm water or groundwater collected within discarded excavations can contain hazardous materials if assessment of excavated materials is faulty or incomplete.
- Vandalism or attempted theft can result in malicious or inadvertent releases of diesel fuel, gasoline, paints, lacquers, stains or adhesives.
- Plumbing systems and process piping can generate significant amounts of waste materials that are often insulated with asbestos, which can result in releases during onsite storage or at the disposal site.
- Inadvertent disruption of power during projects can lead to inadequate ventilation of airborne toxins.
- Installation, retrofit, or repair of circuits may cause disruption of asbestos ceiling tile or insulation of heating plant piping.
- Poor management of storm water runoff from freshly paved surfaces can flush naphtha or kerosene to surface water, soil or groundwater. These substances can also be unintentionally released during transport or at the disposal site.
- Insulation projects can cause hazardous materials such as asbestos to become airborne. Inadvertent disposal of asbestos can result in soil contamination.
- Overspray of paint and roofing polymer can damage vehicles, roofs, trees, and shrubbery.

This is a partial list only. There may be other pollution exposures faced by your company, or you may be brought into litigation through the negligence of another party working on the same job site.