

Saving YOUR Plants

Whenever possible, EPA will work to save existing plants on your property. **With your help**, many mature bushes and trees can be saved. The most important thing you can do is to make sure that all your trees and shrubs are fully hydrated (that doesn't mean waiting until the day before to soak them!!). A happy and healthy tree or shrub will come through with flying colors, even if its roots get nicked or it gets stressed during removal. Remember also to water often and well after the work is done.

Replacement of Hardscaping



Whenever possible, EPA will replace fences, trellises, walkways, etc. with the same material as was there prior to removal. However, sometimes this is not possible. For instance, the type of fencing removed may no longer be available.

If possible, the CIC will work with you prior to the removal to select an adequate substitution your restoration. However, decisions sometimes must be made quickly in the field, and there may be no time for advance consultation. In these events we will do our best to make choices that we believe will be acceptable to you.

Let Us Know What You Think...

EPA encourages you to voice your thoughts or concerns to the CIC *before* the work is conducted, so that we can do our best to address them.

If concerns arise *during* the removal and restoration process, please let us know as soon as possible. The sooner we get your input, the easier it is for us to take the appropriate actions. We WANT the work to go as smoothly as possible.

Don't ever be embarrassed to ask us a question.

If you have questions about the cleanup, replacement soils, or plants, contact your CIC at

For other yard or garden questions please contact your local garden/nursery store or the Montana State University Extension Office. Or, check out their very useful website: www.extn.msu.montana.edu/yard.asp



Outdoor restoration at your property

An Overview for Libby Residents



Removal and Restoration Basics

If you are participating in EPA's asbestos removal at your property, you know that EPA's goal is to remove the significant Libby Amphibole asbestos sources (such as vermiculite in accessible attics) in order to reduce potential health risks to you and your family. This is beneficial to you now, and will also be important if you sell your property in the future.



After removal is completed, EPA works to restore your property to pre-removal conditions. Depending on the property, this restoration often includes replacing vegetation (e.g. bedding plants, shrubs, trees, and grass*), hardscaping materials (e.g. fences, trellises, stepping stones), and excavated soil. We take careful surveys of the layout of your property, meet with you in on-site interviews, take photographs, and make careful notes on the details of your property – *all with the goal of high quality restoration.*

What We Wish We Could Do

In a perfect world, EPA would be able to restore your property exactly as it was – the *same* prize roses, the *exact* style of fence, the *same* drainage patterns, and the *same* quality of garden soil. *We honestly wish we could do just that.*

Unfortunately, it's just not possible on a construction project the size of the Libby Asbestos Site. Because we are dealing with hundreds of yards, gardens, and

interiors each year, we have to address restoration issues in bulk. This means that many people, *especially those who have invested significant time in their yards or gardens over the years*, may end up with restored properties that may not meet their expectations.

We hope that you will agree with us that the removal's benefits (for your family's well being and for your property values) more than make up for this potential shortfall.



What We Can Do

EPA believes it is important for you to know what to expect regarding the restoration of your yard or garden. This brochure lists some of the key issues that arise most frequently. If, after reading this brochure, you have any questions, please call the Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC) that was assigned to you at the phone number listed on the back.

Quality of Replacement Soil

EPA contracts with providers for local replacement soil that meets engineering specifications for plant growth, compaction, drainage, etc. It is amended with peat moss and sand to ensure that there is an adequate mix of organics for plant growth and to allow for drainage. The replacement soil is definitely adequate for lawns and gardens.

However, if you are a serious gardener, the replacement soil will likely not be as rich and well-developed as the soil you created over time in your garden beds. Recreating

that soil is possible, but it will take time and attention from you. EPA will be happy to provide you with information on fertilization, just ask your CIC.

Surface Contour of Replacement Soil

EPA's contractors do their best to return the surface contours of your property to their pre-removal condition. However, because it often takes a year or more for soil to fully settle, they must often "over-fill" the area in anticipation of settlement. This can create short-term drainage issues that should resolve themselves over the first year. Your CIC will be happy to discuss this with you.

Replacement Plants

EPA contracts with a local nursery for strong and healthy replacement plants. Our goal is to replace (in number and type) the plants that are removed. If the nursery cannot duplicate your existing plants, we will work to provide you with what we believe is an equal or better replacement. Obviously, we cannot replace a fully-mature specimen (such as a 10-year old clematis) with the same size plant. But, we *can* provide you with a young, healthy replacement that, given a few years, will be just as beautiful.

At the time of installation, the landscaper will gladly provide you with any information you need on watering and fertilizing of the replacements. Thereafter, you can call your CIC for additional information. If the plants fail (and you have been caring for them as directed), EPA will provide you with additional replacements.



*Please see the EPA brochure *Caring for Your New Lawn* for information on replacement lawns and their care.