

Table 2. Comparison of Asbestos Control Alternatives

Method	Advantages	Disadvantages	Appropriate applications	Inappropriate applications	General comments
Removal	Eliminates asbestos source Eliminates need for special operations and maintenance program	Replacement with substitute material may be necessary Porous surfaces also may require encapsulation Improper removal may raise fiber levels	Always	Never	Containment barriers needed Worker protection required Wet removal is required for all types of asbestos. (amosite will not adsorb water or water with traditional wetting agents) Disposal may be a problem in some areas Unusual circumstances, complex surfaces, and the presence of utilities may require special removal techniques
Enclosure	Reduces exposure in the area outside the enclosure Initial costs may be lower than removal unless utilities need relocating or major changes Usually does not require replacement of material	Asbestos source remains and must be removed eventually Fiber release continues behind enclosure Special operations program required to control access to enclosure for maintenance and renovation Periodic reinspection required to check for damage Repair of damaged enclosure necessary Fibers released in dry form during construction of enclosure Long-term costs could be higher than removal	When materials need to be isolated from building occupants (e.g., exposed pipe) Disturbance or entry into enclosed area unlikely	Damaged or deteriorating materials causing rapid fiber release Water damage evident Damage or entry into enclosure likely Ceiling to be enclosed is low	Containment barriers needed Use of tools with HEPA-filtered vacuum attachments advisable Worker protection needed