

## Asbestos in your home



### How to dispose of Asbestos safely

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If you would like a copy of this document in **large print**, on tape or in Braille, please contact 01372 732000.

If you require a translation in your language, please contact:

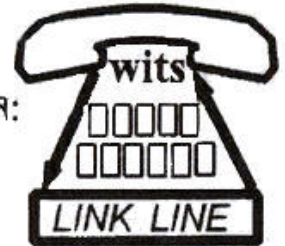
ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਜ਼ਬਾਨ 'ਚ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਚਾਹੀਦਾ ਹੈ, ਤਾਂ ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ:

જો તમને પોતાની ભાષામાં ભાષાંતર જોઈએ છે, તો મહેરબਾની કરીને સંપર્ક સાધો:

Se necessitar de uma tradução, contacte por favor:

যদি আপনার নিজের ভাষায় অনুবাদ চান তাহলে অনুগ্রহ করে যোগাযোগ করুন:

اگر آپ کو ترجمہ اپنی زبان میں چاہئے تو براہ مہربانی رابطہ کریں۔



**01483 750548**

## What is asbestos?

Asbestos is the collective name for a group of fibrous minerals which are mechanically strong and resistant to heat and chemicals. There are three main types of asbestos:

- Chrysotile - white asbestos
- Amosite - brown asbestos
- Crocidolite - blue asbestos

## Hazards of asbestos

Asbestos can produce very small fibrous dust particles which can sometimes cause fatal diseases. The danger arises during work with asbestos when the fibres become airborne and can be breathed in. The danger is not immediately obvious because the size of the fibres are too small to be seen with the naked eye and there is often a long latency period (up to 40 years) between exposure to asbestos and the diagnosis of an asbestos related disease.

## Household asbestos

There are two main types of asbestos found in the home, Bonded and Fibrous asbestos. Today no building materials are allowed to contain asbestos material. However, if your property was built before the mid 1980s, it is possible that it contains asbestos materials in some form.

Asbestos was used in building materials principally to provide cheap thermal insulation and fire protection. It was also used as a filler material in a wide range of building products. Asbestos was used in all sorts of materials. The following list is **not** complete and should only be used as a guide:

- Asbestos lagging
- Loose asbestos filling
- Sprayed asbestos as used for protecting structural steelwork and for insulation It may be found in steel framed houses built before the mid-1970s
- Asbestos insulating board used for fire protection, heat insulation, ceiling tiles and as a building board
- Some floor tiles
- Various asbestos cement products.

People are at risk from asbestos containing material if it is in poor condition, gets damaged or is disturbed so that fibres are released in any way. If you carry out DIY on asbestos products, you may be putting yourself in danger.

You cannot determine whether a material contains asbestos by visual inspection. **If in doubt leave well alone and seek expert advice** (companies specialising in asbestos surveying, sampling, monitoring and removal are listed separately).

Or you can contact ARCA (The Asbestos Removal Contractors Association) who are a non-profit trade association committed to promoting the growth and image of the UK's asbestos abatement industry at:

ARCA House  
237 Branston Road  
Burton-upon-Trent  
Staffordshire DE14 3BT

Tel: 01283 531126

## Bonded asbestos

This is the hard type and is also known as cement asbestos. Examples of hard asbestos include products made from asbestos cement can be ceiling tiles, floor tiles, cold water tanks, roofing tiles, pipes and gutters, corrugated or flat asbestos cement sheets (such as those used in sheds and flue pipes).

## Fibrous asbestos

This may have been used for pipe lagging and **should not be removed by the householder**. You are strongly advised to use a specialist contractor for the removal of this or similar material (contacts as above).

## What to do if you suspect you have asbestos in your home

- **The general rule is to always leave asbestos alone**, it is usually safe unless it is damaged or disturbed.
- Paint indoor materials with an alkali resistant paint such as PVA emulsion, and never sand, drill or saw asbestos materials.
- Always seek advice before removing asbestos. Do not attempt to remove asbestos lagging, spray coatings or insulation board on your own as these materials can only be safely removed by a specialist contractor who is licensed to remove asbestos.
- Sometimes it will be necessary to pay for a sample to be taken to identify if asbestos is present and of what type.

## Removal of bonded (hard) asbestos from your home

Great care must be taken when removing hard asbestos. Before starting ensure that it is in good condition. Small amounts of asbestos cement products can be removed on a DIY basis but if you are concerned at all about its removal you should contact a specialist removal company to carry out the work. If you wish to remove asbestos cement yourself we offer the following advice:

- Don't unless you have to
- Prepare the work area, remove any unnecessary items, cover the floor and surfaces with polythene sheeting

- Keep other people away and do not eat, drink or smoke in the work area
- Wear protective clothing:
  - Disposal overall with hood (wear legs over footwear)
  - Disposal facemask approved for use with asbestos
  - Rubber or disposable gloves
  - Footwear that can be easily cleaned
- Damp down the material. Making it too wet will make it difficult to clean up
- Work in the open air where possible
- Avoid breaking the asbestos as much as possible, wrap in strong polythene sheeting or bags as you go (don't let it pile up) and seal with tape
- Keep other people and animals away
- Visually inspect the area and clear up any debris by hand – wipe down with disposable damp cloths (do not soak or re-use cloths)
- Never use a vacuum cleaner as this will spread the dust around
- Place contaminated cloths, sheeting and protective clothing in a bag while they are still damp and the seal the bag with tape
- Dispose of this as asbestos waste
- Wash well afterwards

## Always remember

- Avoid causing asbestos dust
- Avoid breathing asbestos dust
- Asbestos is dangerous and must always be handled carefully.

## Transporting asbestos

Undamaged sheets may be transported unwrapped, but broken pieces and dust (mopped up with a damp cloth) should be securely sealed in a strong plastic bag.

## Disposing of household asbestos

Bonded or hard asbestos which comes from your house or garden can be disposed of at the civic amenity sites at:

Blenheim Road Transfer Station Blenheim Road Epsom Surrey KT19 9DL Tel: 01372 728722	Randall's Road Community Recycling Centre Randall's Road Leatherhead Surrey KT22 0BA 01372 375479
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**Asbestos from another source or fibrous asbestos cannot be accepted  
at these sites under any circumstances**

On arrival at the community recycling centre make sure the wrapping is still securely in place. Inform a member of staff that you are bringing asbestos. They will direct you to where you must deposit it.

Disposal of fibrous or non-household asbestos should be undertaken through specialist contractors.

For more information, help and advice on this and other waste management issues contact:-

National Customer Contact Centre  
PO Box 544  
Rotherham  
S60 1BY

General enquiry line: 08708 506 506

Emergency hotline: 0800 807060 (*call this in emergencies*)

[www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)

**Asbestos Do's and Don'ts**

- Do treat asbestos with respect
- Do seek advice if you think you have got a problem with asbestos in your home
- Do not panic if you think you have asbestos in your home – it is usually only a problem if disturbed
- Do not drill, saw or disturb materials that contain asbestos.