

Asbestos in Domestic Premises

If your property was built before 2000 it is possible that it has materials which contain asbestos. You may find asbestos in:

- Garage or shed roofs
- Central heating flues
- Eaves, gutters and drain pipes
- Bath panels

If your home is rented, you should be able to obtain the relevant information from your landlord.

How do I know if I have asbestos in my home?

It is not possible to tell if a material contains asbestos just by looking at it. Only a lab can confirm the presence of asbestos.

Asbestos was widely used in products and buildings between the 1950s and the mid-1980s. Asbestos cement was used up until 1999. If your house was built, or refurbished, in this period then it may contain some asbestos.

What should I do if I think there is asbestos in my home?

The general rule is to always leave asbestos alone. It is usually safe unless it is damaged or disturbed.

- Paint indoor material with an alkali resistant paint, such as PVA emulsion. Never sand, drill or saw asbestos material.
- Always seek advice before removing asbestos.
- **Do not** attempt to remove asbestos lagging, spray coatings or large areas of insulation board yourself. These materials can only be safely removed by a licensed contractor.
- Sometimes it will be necessary to take a sample to confirm the presence of asbestos and/or the type of asbestos.
- If the asbestos is damaged, seek advice.

Removing or doing DIY work on asbestos yourself.

You can only remove asbestos cement products yourself. **Do not** attempt to remove or do any work on sprayed asbestos, lagging or insulating boards. This must be undertaken by a licensed asbestos removal contractor. If you are not sure which asbestos containing material (ACM) it is – seek advice.

Do not drill, cut or disturb asbestos unless absolutely necessary. **Do not** scrape or sand asbestos material before painting or decorating. Such work may release fibres into the air.

For removing or working on asbestos cement:

- Prepare the work area – remove any unnecessary items, cover the floor and surfaces with disposable polythene sheeting. Keep other people away.
- Wear protective clothing – disposable overall with hood, disposable paper face mask (for use with asbestos) and rubber or disposable gloves.
- Damp down the asbestos to avoid producing dust – use a plant sprayer or hosepipe but do not soak the area as this will make cleaning up more difficult.
- Use hand tools instead of power tools if possible – hand tools produce less dust and avoids the risk of using electricity in a wet environment.
- Remove the asbestos without breaking it up. Wrap the asbestos in polythene sheeting or bags and seal with tape. Label with 'Asbestos'.
- Visually inspect the area and clear up any debris by hand – wipe down with damp disposable cloths. NEVER use a vacuum cleaner as this will just spread the asbestos dust around.
- Pick up the polythene sheeting and remove your protective clothing. Dispose of both as with the asbestos waste.
- Wash hands and face after job is completed.

How do I dispose of asbestos waste?

Asbestos waste must be disposed of at special facilities, separately from household waste. Household asbestos waste can be disposed of at the council's Cottage Beck Road site, in Scunthorpe. This is a free service.

For more information please contact the council's Waste Management team.

Please note – the council will not collect asbestos waste.

More information about asbestos in the home can be found on the HSE (Health and Safety Executive) website, www.hse.gov.uk.