

## HEALTH SERVICES INFOSHEET

### ASBESTOS

#### Introduction

Left undisturbed in buildings asbestos cement building products pose minimal risk to health. As such there is no need to remove or to coat asbestos cement materials that are in good condition.

Persons removing asbestos cement products must comply with the *Health (Asbestos) Regulations 1992* and the *Environmental Protection (Controlled Waste) Regulations 2004*.

#### Safe work Procedures for the Removal of Asbestos

1. Asbestos cement sheets should be kept wet with water during removal or sprayed with a PVA (poly vinyl acetate) solution. The use of high-pressure equipment to clean materials that contain asbestos is **strictly prohibited**. This includes the use of compressed air or high-pressure water jets.
2. Use only non-powered hand tools or portable power tools incorporating dust suppression or dust extraction attachments designed to collect asbestos fibres.
3. Care must be taken when removing asbestos cement products to ensure minimal breakage. Roofing materials are to be lowered to the ground, not dropped.
4. Removed sheets are to be stacked on polythene sheeting, then wrapped and sealed into bundles for disposal, or placed directly into disposal bins that have been lined with polythene sheeting, and sealed for disposal.
5. Sheets must not be left lying about where they may be further broken or crushed.
6. When stacking removed sheets care must be taken not to skid one sheet over another, as this will result in the release of fibres.
7. Roof gutters must be cleaned or sealed prior to their removal.
8. Any visible asbestos cement residue remaining in the roof space or within the removal area is to be cleaned up using an approved vacuum cleaner if necessary.
9. **All waste containing asbestos is to be kept wet, wrapped in polythene or otherwise sealed and removed from the site as soon as practicable.**

## Demolition Sites

Businesses contracted to remove greater than 10 square metres of asbestos are required by Worksafe WA to hold an asbestos removal licence. Please refer to the [Worksafe website](#) for a list of restricted and unrestricted licence holders.

<http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/do-i-need-asbestos-removal-licence>.

## Disposal to Landfill Sites

Within the Metropolitan area, asbestos cement waste must be disposed of in accordance with the requirements of the *Environmental Protection (Controlled Waste) Regulations 2004* as detailed below.

- ❑ Material containing asbestos must be separated from all other waste.
- ❑ Wrapped in plastic to prevent asbestos fibres entering the atmosphere during transportation by road.
- ❑ Clearly labelled and marked **“CAUTION ASBESTOS”** at least 5cm high.
- ❑ Red Hill Waste Management Facility accept asbestos subject to it being correctly wrapped. For information regarding fees associated with the asbestos burial, please phone Red Hill on 9574 6235.

## Modified Penalty

An infringement notice with a modified penalty of \$2000 can be issued to a person if, they store, break, damage, cut, maintain, repair, remove, move or dispose of, or using any material containing asbestos without taking reasonable measures to prevent asbestos fibres entering the atmosphere.

For more information on identifying asbestos cement products and the special precautions that should be undertaken when handling asbestos see the:

[Department of Health & Ageing \(enHealth\) - Asbestos: A guide for householders and general public, May 2012](#)

**For further information on asbestos you may wish to investigate following documents:**

- [Cancer Council - Online Learning Module kNOw Asbestos in the Home for Home Renovators](#)
- [How to tell the difference between Super 6 \(asbestos\) fencing and Hardifence \(which is not asbestos\)](#)
- [Asbestos Awareness Website](#)
- [Department of Health WA - Asbestos](#)
- [Asbestos FAQs - Department of Commerce](#)