

a8

asbestos essentials

Non-licensed tasks

This information will help employers, including the self-employed, comply with the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006, to control exposure and protect health. It is also useful for trade union representatives.

Asbestos fibre causes lung cancer and lung diseases.

This sheet describes good practice when you need to protect asbestos materials from impact damage, and you do not want to remove them, eg asbestos insulating board wall panels that could be damaged by trolleys or lagged pipework running along the bottom of a wall that could be scuffed.

It covers the points you need to follow to reduce exposure to an adequate level.

It is important to follow all the points, or use equally effective measures.

Only carry out this work if you are properly trained.

This sheet is not appropriate where the asbestos material is damaged. Use an HSE-licensed specialist contractor for such work.

Main points

- Asbestos fibres can kill.
- Keep exposures low using all the controls in this sheet.
- See also sheets em1, em2, em6, em7 and em8.

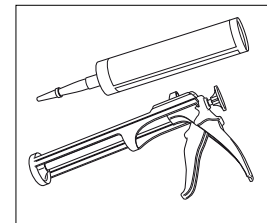
Enclosing undamaged asbestos materials to prevent impact damage

Access

- Minimise the number of people present.
- Restrict access - close doors, and use warning tape and notices.
- Ensure adequate lighting.

Equipment

- Warning tape and notices;
- non-asbestos board (this may need to meet an original specification, eg fire resistant);
- adhesive, eg 'Liquid nails';
- nails or screws;
- screwdriver;
- hammer;
- bucket of water and rags; and
- asbestos waste container, eg labelled polythene sack.



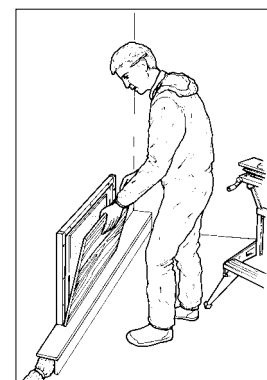
'Liquid nails'

Personal protective equipment (PPE)

- Provide:
 - disposable overalls fitted with a hood; and
 - boots without laces (laced boots are hard to decontaminate).
- A respirator is not normally required. For reassurance, you may use a respirator - see sheet em6.

Procedure

- Repair minor damage first - see sheet a6 for asbestos insulating board or sheet a13 for asbestos cement.
- You must use a licensed contractor to repair asbestos lagging or coatings.
- Box-in pipework without disturbing the lagging.
- Where possible, fix replacement panels to non-asbestos materials - you can use nails or screws.
- If necessary, use adhesive to attach replacement panels to asbestos insulating board. Do not use adhesive on asbestos cement.
- Seal the cavity and provide adequate fire barriers.
- Note the presence of asbestos material, so it can be managed properly.



Use non-asbestos boarding to protect asbestos

Safety Checklist

- ✓ Can you avoid disturbing asbestos by doing the job in some other way?
- ✓ Do you need a license for the work?
- ✓ Always follow all legal requirements.
- ✓ Follow the task guidance sheet.
- ✓ Make sure other risks (eg work at height, manual handling) are assessed and controlled.
- ✓ Use only suitable asbestos waste containers.
- ✓ Double-wrap asbestos waste.
- ✓ Take asbestos waste to a licensed tip.

Caution:

- Don't sweep up dust or debris - use a Type H vacuum cleaner or wet rags.
- Don't take used overalls home.
- Don't re-use disposable PPE.
- Don't smoke.
- Don't eat or drink in the workplace.

Cleaning

- Clean the equipment and the area with wet rags.
- Put debris, used rags, polythene sheeting and other waste in the waste container.
- Tape the container closed.

Personal decontamination

See sheet em8.

Clearance procedure

- Visually inspect the area to make sure that it has been cleaned properly.
- Clearance air sampling is not normally required.

Essential information

Download and follow these advice sheets:

- em1 *What to do if you uncover asbestos materials or they are damaged*
- em2 *Training*
- em6 *Personal protective equipment*
- em7 *Using rags to clean surfaces and equipment contaminated with asbestos*
- em8 *Personal decontamination*

Useful links

- For information about health and safety ring HSE's Infoline Tel: 0845 345 0055 Textphone: 0845 408 9577 e-mail: hse.infoline@natbrit.com.
- HSE priced and free publications are available from HSE Books Tel: 01787 881165 Website: www.hsebooks.co.uk.
- British Standards are available from BSI Customer Services, 389 Chiswick High Road, London W4 4AL Tel: 020 8996 9001 Fax: 020 8996 7001 e-mail: cservices@bsi-global.com Website: www.bsi-global.com.

This document is available at www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos.htm

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This guidance is issued by the Health and Safety Executive. Following the guidance is not compulsory and you are free to take other action. But if you do follow the guidance you will normally be doing enough to comply with the law. Health and safety inspectors seek to secure compliance with the law and may refer to this guidance as illustrating good practice.