



ASBESTOS

Important information for home renovators and builders... Legal requirements for the safe handling, storage, transport and disposal of asbestos waste.

Asbestos fibres are hazardous when inhaled. They can be released into the air when asbestos products are incorrectly handled, removed or transported for disposal.

Usually referred to as 'fibro', bonded asbestos includes products made from asbestos cement, such as flat or corrugated sheeting, water and flue pipes, and casing for electrical wires. Hessian type carpet underlay and old linoleum type flooring tiles may also contain asbestos. If in doubt, have it tested.

This information does not cover the requirements for handling unbonded asbestos, such as fibres and dust.

Asbestos removal contractors licensed by SafeWork NSW can advise on the removal and disposal of this form of asbestos.

Only up to 10 square metres of bonded asbestos can be removed by the homeowner or handyman. Anything over this amount needs to be done by a licensed asbestos remover. Any demolition or renovation involving over 10 square metres of asbestos demolition needs to be notified to the web

portal of SafeWork NSW at least 5 days prior to demolition

You can't always identify asbestos by simply looking at it. The most accurate way to find out if your fibro contains asbestos is to have it inspected by an occupational (asbestos) hygienist and tested by a NATA accredited laboratory.

Keeping yourself safe

Always follow safety guidelines when removing asbestos products to prevent release of dust and fibres. For information on safe removal practices go to:

- www.nsw.gov.au/fibro
- www.safework.nsw.gov.au
- www.asbestosawareness.com.au

Handling and storage

Once bonded asbestos products have been safely removed, you should use the following approaches during handling and storage to minimise the release of dust and fibres:

- Wet the asbestos waste and keep it damp to prevent dust — but don't use too much water and ensure water does not run off into drains.
- Keep the waste covered at all times so that no dust is created — wrap it in heavy duty plastic and secure with tape.
- Separate the asbestos waste and store it apart from other types of waste.

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ILLEGAL
DUMPING**

Beware!

Illegally dumped asbestos can pose a health risk and harm the environment. Ensure asbestos from your property is taken to a landfill that can legally accept it.

- Store the waste securely to prevent unauthorised access to it.
- Remove the waste from the site as soon as possible.



If using a skip bin to store your asbestos waste:

- Ensure the skip bin is fully lined with heavy duty plastic before placing asbestos waste in it.
- Keep the waste damp and don't overfill the skip.
- Cover and secure the contents when full.

Don't break asbestos into smaller pieces to make it fit into skip bins, vehicles or bags. Broken pieces of asbestos can generate dust and fibres. Keep asbestos sheeting intact during removal and handle it with care to prevent breakage.

Transport

The transport of 100 kg or more of asbestos contaminated material (ACM) or over 10 square metres of bonded asbestos sheeting must be notified and tracked by consignment number through the EPA WasteLocate System. Asbestos must not be moved from the demolition site and stored elsewhere pending eventual disposal, unless the transfer location is licensed for that purpose.

Don't mix asbestos with your general building waste. If your skip bin contains asbestos your building waste can't be recycled, and landfills won't accept it unless it is properly sealed in heavy duty plastic. You will also pay more for disposal costs and risk a fine.

People or companies dealing with this amount of asbestos sheeting or asbestos contaminated material (ACM) should hold the appropriate licence.

Disposal

Dispose of asbestos waste promptly to a landfill that can lawfully accept it. Failure to do so can devalue your property, put your health and your family's health at risk, and expose you to hefty fines and clean-up costs. It is illegal to dispose of asbestos waste in domestic garbage bins. It is also illegal to recycle, re-use, or illegally dump asbestos products.

- The Environment Protection Authority and councils can issue hefty fines for disposing of asbestos waste illegally.
- Visit <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/managewaste/house-asbestos.htm> for a list of licensed landfills

that accept asbestos waste from the public.

- Most landfills will not accept asbestos without prior booking or notification. Always contact the landfill beforehand to find out when asbestos waste is accepted and any requirements for delivering asbestos to the landfill.
- When delivering your waste to the landfill, ensure that you inform the landfill operator that the waste contains asbestos.
- Keep copies of receipts from landfills where asbestos has been taken. If you hire a company to dispose of asbestos, ask for copies of disposal receipts. Councils may require you to produce these receipts as proof of proper disposal.

How you can help.

If you suspect someone is handling, storing, transporting or disposing of asbestos illegally or unsafely report the details to your local Council or contact the EPA direct on 131 555.

You can also report on-line at ridonline.epa.nsw.gov.au

RID REPORT
ILLEGAL
DUMPING

131 555

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A NSW Environment Protection Authority and Council joint initiative



TO REPORT AN INCIDENT
ON LINE GO TO:

