

essentials

Non-licensed tasks

This information will help employers and the self-employed to comply with the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012.

It is also useful for trade union and employee safety representatives.

Only carry out work if you are properly trained and have the right equipment.

Remember:

- Asbestos fibres can cause lung cancer and lung diseases.
- Check it out before you start work.
- Read the safety checklist on the task sheet.



Don't assume there will always be warning signs. There could be undiscovered asbestos in buildings you work on.



Asbestos lagging on an old tank



Asbestos insulating board (AIB) fire surround

What to do if you uncover or damage materials that may contain asbestos

Equipment and method sheet

What this sheet covers

This sheet shows some examples of where asbestos can be found. A chart describes what to do if you find asbestos materials during a job.

It also applies where asbestos materials get damaged by accident.







There are three 'colours' of asbestos, but you can't tell just by the colour what you have found; it could be mixed with other ingredients which change the appearance.







Asbestos isn't always obvious. Would you spot an asbestos gasket on an old engine, asbestos cement pipes or an asbestos-containing fuse-board? If you're not sure, the premises owner needs to get it checked out!



These asbestos cement pipes are labelled, so are the tiles, but you might not know until you start to lift them.



There could be sprayed limpet under this asbestos cement (AC) sheeting



MORE HELP

- More asbestos pictures www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/gallery.htm
- Help to decide if work is licensed www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/licensing/ index.htm
- For information about health and safety, or to report inconsistencies or inaccuracies in this guidance, visit www.hse.gov.uk/. You can view HSE guidance online or order priced publications from the website. HSE priced publications are also available from bookshops.
- These equipment and method (em) sheets and task (a) sheets can be downloaded free from www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/essentials/index.htm
- See sheet a0 for details of more guidance.

Stop work immediately, and Keep everyone else out Is there dust or debris on clothing? of the area A little. A lot, eg contaminated Report the problem to the eg dust clothes, hair, footwear person in charge as soon on sleeve, as possible on shoes Stay put Put up a warning sign Get help 'possible asbestos All put on contamination' Call for help. All put on **RPE** RPE, helper put on PPE Tell client to get the material Wipe sampled and analysed Wipe down with damp rags down with damp rags Does it No action NO Undress. contain required Shower, wash hair asbestos? Put contaminated clothes, YES towels etc in a plastic bag for a specialist laundry. The client must Leave washing facilities clean make an Asbestos Management Plan and decide if the Dispose of rags as asbestos waste task needs an **HSE-licensed** contractor Keep a record of the event

Discovered or damaged materials that could contain asbestos?

Procedures

- Stop this work immediately.
- Follow the chart above or do a risk assessment to decide who must do the work you may need a licensed contractor.
- Minimise the spread of contamination to other areas.
- Keep exposures as low as you can.
- Clean up the contamination.

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.

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

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