



**DON'T PLAY  
RENOVATION ROULETTE!**

**1  
FACT  
SHEET**

## WORKING SAFELY WITH **ASBESTOS** AROUND THE HOME



### **WAS YOUR HOME BUILT OR RENOVATED BEFORE 1990?**

Asbestos could be in any home built or renovated before 1990. Thousands of different products remain hidden dangers in 1 in every 3 Australian homes including brick, weatherboard, fibro and clad homes, even apartments. It could be anywhere! If sealed, left undisturbed and in good condition asbestos products don't pose a health risk. However, if disturbed, fibres are released which can be inhaled and cause asbestos-related diseases.

### **SAFETY STEPS FOR HOMEOWNERS WHEN REMOVING OR REPAIRING SMALL AMOUNTS OF ASBESTOS**

- **ONLY** licenced asbestos removalists are recommended to remove and dispose of asbestos.
- **VISIT** [asbestosawareness.com.au](http://asbestosawareness.com.au) for examples of products that might contain asbestos and where they might be found in your home.
- **SEAL** broken or damaged asbestos using the steps listed in this brochure.



# ASBESTOS HAZARDS AROUND THE HOME

## SEALING BROKEN OR DAMAGED ASBESTOS MATERIALS AROUND THE HOME

Sometimes an asbestos sheet or other asbestos-containing products can be damaged, broken or may be unsealed. Follow these **DO's & DON'Ts** to ensure you and your family are safe.

### DO'S

- ✓ **PLAN** your job in advance.
- ✓ **WEAR** only old clothes under the coveralls. Clothes must be disposed of.
- ✓ **WEAR** Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) at all times.
- ✓ **ENSURE** no electrical wiring or products are in the work area.
- ✓ **PREPARE** equipment and work area before starting.
- ✓ **COVER** removal area in 200um plastic drop sheets to catch any fibres, dust and debris.
- ✓ **WET** asbestos materials using a gentle mist spray of water. Add detergent to improve absorption or use a mix of 1 part PVA glue to 5 parts water to bond the material.
- ✓ **USE** a spray bottle to wet smaller areas or a low-pressure spray mist using a garden hose.
- ✓ **CONTINUE** wetting asbestos that is exposed – If you can see it, wet it!
- ✓ **MINIMISE** the number of people in the work area.
- ✓ **DECONTAMINATE** yourself, the work area and equipment when completed.

### DON'TS

- ✗ **NEVER CREATE** dust.
- ✗ **NEVER BREAK** asbestos sheeting.
- ✗ **NEVER WORK** in windy conditions.
- ✗ **NEVER LEAVE** the work area until the job and decontamination are completed.
- ✗ **NEVER USE** power tools, household vacuum cleaners, brooms or brushes (except for sealing with paint or a PVA solution), high pressure water spray on ANY asbestos product including walls and roofing.
- ✗ **NEVER WET** any area that may contain electrical wiring or equipment that may be connected to electricity such as household goods (fridges), tools etc. For areas that can't be wet down prior to removal, engage a licenced asbestos removalist.
- ✗ **NEVER WORK** on dry or friable asbestos.


HAZARDS




INTERNAL FLAKING PAINT




EXTERNAL PEELING PAINT,  
EXPOSED TO WEATHER




PEELING PAINT, EAVES,  
GUTTERING AND DOWNPIPE



EXTERNAL PEELING PAINT



BROKEN ASBESTOS CEMENT SHEETING



UNSEALED AND BROKEN SHEETING



# ASBESTOS 'PPE KIT'

## PERSONAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT (PPE)

ALL items in a disposable PPE Kit must be disposed of as ASBESTOS WASTE after use. Wear the PPE in the following order:

### 1. DISPOSABLE COVERALLS

- Rated Type 5, Category 3 and labelled for asbestos use.
- Should be one size too big and include a hood and elasticised cuffs.
- Ensure the hood goes over mask straps and covers all hair.
- The coverall legs then go over the top of shoe covers.
- ONLY WEAR old clothes under the coveralls. These should be disposed of with the coveralls after use.

### 2. FOOTWEAR & SHOE COVERS TO BE WORN OVER SHOES

- NEVER wear boots or shoes with laces. Gumboots are the best option.
- SHOE COVERS should cover all of the boot/shoe and be secured above the ankle.
- When shoe covers are secured, pull the cuffs of the coverall legs down to cover the top of shoe covers.

### 3. GLOVES

- Use ONLY disposable Latex, Nitrile or neoprene gloves.
- Tuck under the cuffs of coveralls and tape the cuffs if loose.

### 4. MASK

- Should be worn at all times.
- Minimum P2 filter, half face disposable particulate respirator.
- Ensure your mask fits perfectly.

### 5. PROTECTIVE EYEWEAR

- After fitting your mask, fit your eyewear and place the hood over the top of the mask straps and eyewear arms, and cover all hair.



### EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

1. PPE Kit.
2. 200um plastic drop sheets.
3. Duct tape.
4. Wet wipes or disposable cloths.
5. Bucket of water.
6. Water sprayer (hose or bottle).
7. PVA glue or quality paint (sealant).
8. Non-electrical tools for removal of fixings and materials.
9. 200um (0.2mm) ASBESTOS WASTE plastic bags or 200um virgin plastic rolls and label/mark as 'DANGER ASBESTOS WASTE'.



## DECONTAMINATING THE WORK AREA

**IMPORTANT: You must continue to wear your PPE throughout this process.**

1. Carefully place all materials including your PPE, drop sheets and all disposable items in 200um (0.2mm) plastic bags labelled 'DANGER ASBESTOS WASTE'. All materials must be double bagged.
2. Whether using bags or rolls of 200um plastic, the material must be double wrapped/bagged and sealed with duct tape.
3. Tightly twist the bag opening then fold over to form a 'goose neck' and seal with duct tape.
4. Place the sealed bag inside a second bag labelled 'DANGER ASBESTOS WASTE' and seal as above with duct tape. This is double bagging.
5. Use wet wipes or disposable cloths (ONCE ONLY) to wipe away any dust from tools or surfaces and place in a plastic bag.
6. Wet wipe all hand tools. If they aren't able to be decontaminated they should be discarded as 'ASBESTOS WASTE' or double bagged for later use but ONLY when wearing PPE.
7. Wet wipe the outside of bags before removing from the work area.

## DECONTAMINATING YOURSELF

**IMPORTANT: When decontaminating yourself, all items must be DOUBLE BAGGED, sealed with duct tape and disposed of as ASBESTOS WASTE, as per the above method.**

1. Wet wipe protective coveralls and shoe covers and place cloths in a 200um plastic bag.
2. Carefully remove shoe covers, gloves and coveralls and place in a 200um plastic bag.
3. Wet wipe footwear and place cloths in a 200um plastic bag.
4. Seal all plastic 200um bags with duct tape using the double bag method.
5. Remove mask last and seal using the double bag method.
6. Remove and dispose of old clothing using the double bag method.
7. Wash hands, nails, face and head thoroughly with soapy water then shower.

**NOTE:** All asbestos contaminated materials must be double bagged and labelled 'DANGER ASBESTOS WASTE' and decontaminated before being removed from the work area for appropriate disposal.

**YOU MUST DISPOSE  
OF ASBESTOS WASTE  
SAFELY AND LEGALLY!  
WHATEVER YOU DO,  
DON'T DUMP IT!**



**IT IS IMPORTANT THAT ALL PPE AND MATERIALS USED WHEN REMOVING OR REPAIRING ASBESTOS ARE DISPOSED OF AS ASBESTOS WASTE. NOT ALL WASTE CENTRES ACCEPT ASBESTOS WASTE. CHECK WITH COUNCIL FOR YOUR NEAREST AUTHORISED WASTE DISPOSAL CENTRE.**

*A detailed Fact Sheet can be found on our website.*

**ThinkSmart.ThinkSafe.Think  
asbestosawareness.com.au**

*it's not worth the risk!*



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