

Asbestos Cement Products – Removal

Health (Asbestos) Regulations 1992

While left undisturbed in buildings, asbestos cement building products pose little risk to health and there is no need to remove or to coat asbestos cement materials that are in good condition. All asbestos cement products can be removed safely without causing a risk to the public or workers, provided safe work procedures are followed.

Anyone removing asbestos cement products must comply with the *Health (Asbestos) Regulations 1992*, the *Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996* and the *Environmental Protection (Controlled Waste) Regulations 2004*, as outlined in this fact sheet.

Safe work procedures for the removal of asbestos

1. Asbestos cement sheets should be kept wet with water, or other practical measures should be taken to keep airborne material containing asbestos to a minimum during removal.
2. Use only non-powered hand tools or portable power tools fitted with 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 must be lowered to the ground, not dropped.
4. Sheets must not be left lying about where they may be further broken or crushed.
5. 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 then sealed for disposal.
6. When stacking removed sheets, care must be taken not to slide one sheet over another, as this will result in the release of fibres.
7. Any visible asbestos cement residue remaining in the roof space, in the roof gutters, or within the removal area is to be cleaned up using a vacuum cleaner which complies with the Class H requirements as per the Standards AS/NZS 60335.2.69. A domestic vacuum cleaner with a HEPA filter is inadequate.
8. All waste containing asbestos is to be kept wet and wrapped in thick plastic or otherwise sealed and removed from the site as soon as practicable.

Demolition sites

In addition to the above information, those working on demolition sites should comply with the following requirements:

1. Advise the City's Environmental Health Services of any asbestos removal at least 24 hours prior to work commencing.
2. If removing asbestos cement building products from a demolition site, it is recommended that the surrounding area should have signs and a barrier erected to warn of the danger and prevent unauthorised people from entering.
3. All people involved with asbestos cement removal should wear disposable coveralls and P1, P2 or P3 respiratory protective equipment that complies with the Standard AS/NZS 1716 (obtainable from your local hardware shop). Used disposable coveralls and masks are to be placed in the bags for removal with other asbestos waste.

All inquiries relating to demolition sites should be directed to the City's Building Approvals sub-unit on **9400 4961** or to WorkSafe on **1300 307 877**.

For information regarding personal protection during asbestos product removal contact WorkSafe on the above number.

Disposal to landfill sites

Within the metropolitan area asbestos waste must be disposed of in accordance with the requirements of the *Environmental Protection (Controlled Waste) Regulations 2004*. Material containing asbestos must be:

- separated from all other waste
- wrapped in heavy-duty plastic to prevent asbestos fibres entering the atmosphere during transportation
- clearly labelled and marked 'CAUTION ASBESTOS' in letters at least 5 cm high.

The nearest facility that will accept asbestos cement waste is Tamala Park, which is located on Marmion Avenue, Mindarie.

Under the *Environmental Protection (Controlled Waste) Regulations 2004*, permits are NOT required for the removal, transportation or disposal of material containing asbestos by home owners. However, contractors transporting asbestos products may need a permit. For further information on transportation please contact the Department of Environment and Conservation on **(08) 6467 5000**.

Prohibitions

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.

It is an offence to sell, swap, give away or supply second hand asbestos cement sheeting.

Further information

You may wish to visit the following web sites:

State Law Publisher – for the Health (Asbestos Regulations) 1992

www.slp.wa.gov.au

Mindarie Regional Council – Tamala Park Operations

www.mrc.wa.gov.au

Department of Health

www.public.health.wa.gov.au

WorkSafe

www.safetyline.wa.gov.au

or please contact:

The City's Health and Environmental Services
9400 4933

Mindarie Regional Council - Tamala Park
9306 6303

WorkSafe

1300 307 877