



Asbestos

SAFETY ALERT

Asbestos is a naturally occurring silicate made up of tiny fibres and categorised by its colour: Chrysotile (white); Crocidolite (blue); Amosite (brown). In addition, Tremolite; Anthophyllite and Actinolite remain unclassified by colour. Asbestos could be in the building you are working on right now. If it was built or renovated before the mid-1980s, it is highly likely that it has asbestos-containing products. After 1990, it is unlikely that it has asbestos-containing products.

If left alone, asbestos isn't a danger but once disturbed, tiny asbestos fibres are released into the atmosphere which can be lethal if breathed in. It can cause various diseases including pleural plaques (non-malignant disease affecting the lung lining), asbestosis (scarring of lung tissue), lung cancer and mesothelioma.

Asbestos-clad piping laid in the ground undergoes gradual degradation in the form of corrosion (internal calcium leaching) which results in pipe softening and loss of strength.

If you are carrying out work that will disturb asbestos materials it is important to take the proper precautions.

Before starting, cover your work with plastic sheets and clean up as you go. Use a damp cloth to wipe down tools and surface to remove asbestos fibres. Don't sweep or use a domestic vacuum cleaner because it will spread the asbestos fibres into the air. Ensure all waste is double bagged in plastic sacks, sealed with tape, labelled as asbestos waste and dispose at a licensed disposal site. Wear the right PPE including a correctly fitted P2 face mask (minimum) and overalls.



STOP — THINK — DO

Need More Information go to: asbestos.sa.gov.au OR

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