Asbestos

Disturbing asbestos during maintenance, construction or demolition can release invisible fibres. Breathing them can cause serious, irreversible disease.

You cannot identify asbestos by sight or smell. Stop and report suspected material to Downer.

Primary Risks & Hazards to Spot



- **Unknown asbestos**
- **Unchecked asbestos register**



- **Damaged or unidentified material**
- **Disturbing materials during maintenance or demolition**



- **No Downer approval**
- **Working near asbestos without controls**

Social Infrastructure & Citizen Services

Where might this happen in our work environment?



Maintenance: work near damaged or unidentified materials in older buildings. Check for suspected asbestos before starting.



Refurbishment: drilling, cutting or grinding can disturb asbestos-containing materials.



Demolition: disturbing asbestos-containing materials can release dust and fibres.

Where else?

Are asbestos locations on our register or management plan?

What can we check to protect?

1. **Have we planned the work?**
   Check register, plan and tests. Assume asbestos until confirmed otherwise. Check friable/non-friable type and disturbance risk.
2. **Have we stopped and reported?**
   Stop and report suspected asbestos to Downer. No disturbance unless authorised, trained, competent or licensed.
3. **Are controls and training ready?**
   Use wet methods, H-class extraction and fit-tested RPE. Work on or near asbestos needs adequate awareness training.

How will we ensure workers and contractors notify us before work starts?

Social Infrastructure & Citizen Services

Your safety comes first

The SI&CS Health, Safety and Wellbeing Team is here to help.

You don’t have to work through a safety concern alone.

Ask for support when:

You’re unsure

We can help you understand a hazard and discuss a safer way to work.

Something happens

We can help with hazard, incident and near-miss reporting and next steps.

You need support

We can work with you and your supervisor or manager to address health, safety and wellbeing concerns.

Do you know who is your HSW Business Partner?

Stop if the work is unsafe

Pause the task and move to a safe place. Speak up if something feels unsafe or you are unsure.

Notify your supervisor or manager

Report hazards, incidents and near misses promptly, even if no one is hurt. Explain what happened, where it is and who may be at risk.

Do not continue unsafe work

Keep the task stopped until the risk is addressed and your supervisor or manager confirms a safe way forward. Ask for help if you are unsure.