Asbestos Back-2-Basics Pocket Guide

Plan
Report
Protect

Asbestos Aware

Downer

! Asbestos Aware
Know the risk. Stop exposure.

Asbestos is a serious health risk in construction and maintenance

Disturbing asbestos releases harmful fibres

Buildings and houses built:

Before 2003
- Assume asbestos may be present

Before 1990
- Assume asbestos is likely present

Never assume a material is asbestos-free unless it has been confirmed

If you're unsure:

Stop work

Isolate the area

Report immediately

1 Plan
Look for asbestos

Take the time to understand your worksite

Ask for Asbestos Registers, Asbestos Management Plans or any available test results.

Check and find out if the asbestos is friable or non-friable.

Look around to spot asbestos.





Asbestos is present or suspected.
Move to Step 2.

No asbestos is present
Continue with care and follow safe work procedures

2 Plan
Think about the task

Think about the work you are about to do

Q1.

Will the work involve cutting, drilling, breaking or disturbing asbestos fibers and dust?



Q2.

Will any asbestos material be removed?



Yes to any of the above.
Move to Step 3.

No to all of the above
Continue with care and follow safe work procedures

3 Report
Stop! Report to Downer

For any asbestos found or suspected:
Stop! Report to Downer.

Friable asbestos
- Do not disturb
- Report to Downer

Non-friable asbestos Removal
- Larger than 10m²
- Report to Downer

Downer will engage Licensed Asbestos Assessors and Removalists.

Clearance, inspection and sign-off is required.

Non-friable asbestos Removal
- Less than 10m²
- Licensed asbestos removalist may not be required
- To work safely adhere to all safe work controls after Downer approval

Work on Non-friable asbestos
- To work safely adhere to all safe work controls after Downer approval

Stop the work!
Report to Downer

Report to Downer
Continue with caution after Downer approval. Move to Step 4.

4 Protect
Safe work controls

Check your safety

Training and documentation
- Asbestos awareness training
- Downer site induction
- SWMS / SSSP / JSA completed

Work Practices and Equipment
- Use wet methods
- Non-electrical / low speed tools with local exhaust (H-class)
- No compressed air
- Restricted access and signage
- Contain and dispose of waste correctly

PPE
- P2 respirator minimum (clean shaven and fit tested)
- Disposable coveralls
- Gloves
- Safety glasses
- Safety shoes and shoe covers

5 Protect
Clean up and close out

When finishing the work



5.1 Inspection
Inspect and clean work area

5.2 Clearance
Confirm area is safe for reoccupation

5.3 Records
Complete required documentation and / or take pictures

5.4 Sign-Off
Obtain clearance / sign-off as required

The Asbestos Safety Pathway

Follow this pathway to help identify asbestos risk, stop unsafe work, and confirm the right controls before proceeding.

Step 1 Look for asbestos

Step 2 Think about the task

Step 3 Stop! Report to Downer

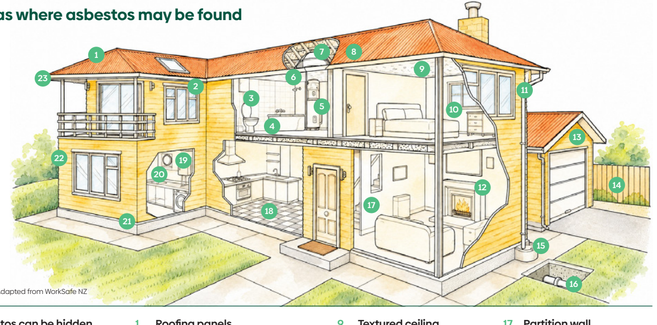
Step 4 Safe work controls

Step 5 Clean up and close out

Asbestos Aware

Downer

Areas where asbestos may be found

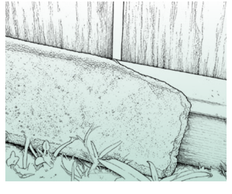


Source: Adapted from WorkSafe NZ

Asbestos can be hidden in many common building materials. Check these areas carefully before disturbing, removing or modifying any material.

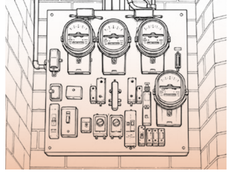
1. Roofing panels
2. Exterior window flashing
3. Toilet seat and cistern
4. Bath panel
5. Hot water cupboard lining
6. Ceiling tiles
7. Water tank
8. Loose fill insulation
9. Textured ceiling
10. Interior window panel
11. Gutters and downpipes
12. Fireplace surrounding
13. Garage cladding
14. Fence panels
15. Stormwater trap
16. Stormwater and sewerage piping
17. Partition wall
18. Vinyl flooring
19. Electrical meter board
20. Wet area lining substrate
21. Cladding including baseboards
22. Compressed sheeting
23. Soffits

Gardens and yards



10 different materials contain asbestos

Electrical and powerboxes



23 different materials contain asbestos

Fireplaces



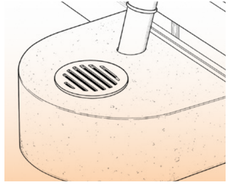
10 different materials contain asbestos

Fences and tiles



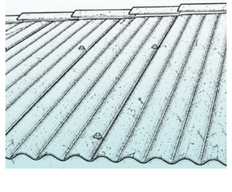
9 different materials contain asbestos

Mouldings and moulded products



15 different materials contain asbestos

Roofs, eaves and soffits



16 different materials contain asbestos

Resources List

Downer:
Safe over Summer

NSW Government Asbestos Checker:
Search asbestos products

NSW Government:
Planning for asbestos removal

NSW Government:
How to videos for asbestos removal and safe work practices

NSW Government:
Asbestos health risks

NSW Government:
Disposal of asbestos waste