

Asbestos Removal

ASBESTOS IN BUILDINGS

Left undisturbed in buildings, asbestos cement building products DO NOT generally present a risk to health. Existing asbestos building products do not need to be removed or coated if in good condition. If safe work procedures are followed, removal can be performed safely without providing a risk to workers.

REMOVAL OF ASBESTOS

Licensing of Asbestos Removal Operators

From 1 June 2010, people or businesses involved in removing more than 10m² of bonded (non-friable) asbestos must be licensed by WorkSafe.

Safe Removal & Preparation for Transportation

Asbestos removal must be conducted in accordance with the Occupational Safety & Health Act 1984 and the Health (Asbestos) Regulations 1992. Compliance with the requirements of the above is achieved by following the [Code of Practice for the Safe Removal of Asbestos 2nd Edition \[NOHSC: 2002 \(2005\)\]](#);

The following general guidance notes are provided. However, the Code of Practice should be consulted before proceeding with any removal:

- Personal protective equipment including disposable overalls and approved masks must be worn during the removal. These are to be placed in bags for removal with other asbestos waste.
- Asbestos sheets should be kept wet with water or sprayed with a PVA (Poly vinyl acetate) solution during the removal process.
- Use non-powered hand tools or portable power tools that incorporate dust suppression or dust extraction attachments that are designed to collect asbestos fibres.
- Caution must be taken to minimize breakage of asbestos sheets when they are removed, ie, asbestos should be lowered to the ground, not dropped.
- Removed asbestos sheets are to be stacked on polythene sheeting then wrapped and sealed for disposal. These are to be placed directly into a disposal bin/trailer that have also been lined with polythene sheeting. These are then sealed for disposal.

- Asbestos sheets must not be left lying about where they may be further crushed or broken.
- When stacking removed sheets, take care not to skid one sheet over another. This will prevent the release of fibres.
- Visible asbestos cement residue in the removal area is to be cleaned up using an approved vacuum cleaner.
- Waste containing asbestos must be kept wet, wrapped in polythene and sealed then removed from the site as soon as possible.

DISPOSAL OF ASBESTOS

Asbestos cement waste must be disposed of at the Shire of Exmouth waste disposal facility. 48 hours notice is required prior to disposal. Please contact the Shire Depot on 9949 1699 to arrange disposal.

Disposal Fee

Refer to the Shire's Schedule of Fees and Charges (Sanitation) for fees associated with disposal of asbestos

PROHIBITIONS

- The use of high-pressure equipment to clean materials that contain asbestos is strictly prohibited. This includes compressed air or high-pressure water jets.
- It is an offence to sell, swap, give away or supply second hand asbestos cement sheeting.
- It is offence to use power tools other than those which incorporate dust suppression or extraction attachments designed to collect asbestos fibres.
- Waste materials containing asbestos must be disposed of in accordance with the Environmental Protection (Controlled Waste) Regulations 2000.

Further details can be obtained from Worksafe, WA
Department of Health or the
Shire of Exmouth
Environmental Health Services
Ph 9949 3000



21st November 2012