

## Asbestos

This advice is aimed at householders. The Health and Safety Executive have produced a number of leaflets which are more appropriate for businesses.

### Why worry about Asbestos in the home?

If your property is more than 15 years old, it's possible that it contains materials made from asbestos.

Common locations are listed/shown below but there may be others in your home - so if in doubt leave well alone and seek expert help. Contact your local Environmental Protection Team at your Borough / District Council offices.

### Disposal of Asbestos Waste

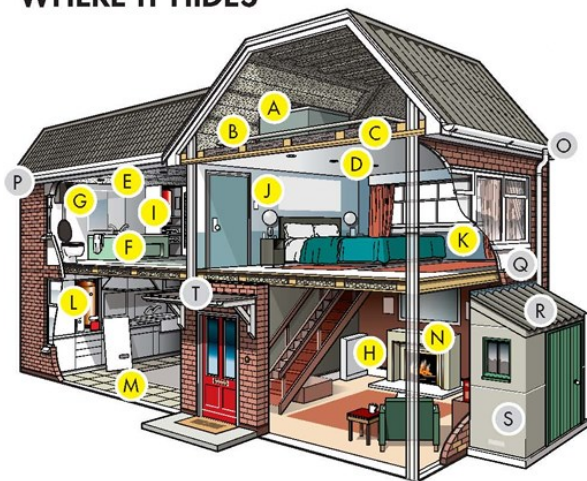
Small amounts of asbestos cement (up to 4 sheets 6ft x 2ft or 4ft x 3ft) can be disposed of by householders at one of the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) that have an asbestos container, these are situated in Burton, Cannock, Leek, Stafford and Wombourne (please see individual HWRC webpages for opening days and times).

Do not put it in your dustbin.

If as a house holder, you intend to transport asbestos cement waste in your own vehicle, you do not need to be a registered carrier provided that it is your own waste. However, you should take the following steps to ensure that asbestos does not contaminate your car:

- Spray sheets of asbestos cement with water.
- Double wrap or double bag the asbestos cement with heavy duty polythene.
- Ensure the wrapping is secured with tape.
- Make sure vehicle occupants do not have access to the asbestos waste.

### ASBESTOS WHERE IT HIDES



#### Inside

- a. Asbestos cement Water tank
- b. Pipe lagging
- c. Loose fill insulation
- d. Textured decorative coating e.g. artex
- e. AIB ceiling tiles
- f. AIB bath panel
- g. Toilet seat and cistern
- h. AIB behind fuse box
- i. AIB airing cupboard and/or sprayed insulation coating boiler
- j. AIB partition wall
- k. AIB interior window panel
- l. AIB around boiler
- m. Vinyl floor tiles
- n. AIB behind fire

#### Outside

- o. Asbestos cement gutters and downpipes
- p. Soffits – AIB or asbestos cement
- q. AIB exterior window panel
- r. Asbestos cement roof
- s. Asbestos cement panels
- t. Roofing felt

## **AIB = Asbestos Insulating Board**

If your home is rented, your landlord may have relevant information.

### **I think I may have asbestos in my home. What should I do?**

Don't panic if you think you have asbestos in your home - it's usually only a problem if it's disturbed. Don't drill, saw or disturb materials that contain asbestos. Do not try to repair or remove any asbestos materials yourself if you have not had any training for asbestos work. You can seek advice from an Environmental Health Officer at your local District or Borough Council.

If you are sure (or strongly suspect) that your home contains asbestos materials then it is often best to leave them where they are – especially if they are in good condition and unlikely to get damaged. You should check the condition of the materials from time to time to make sure they haven't been damaged or started to deteriorate.

Slightly damaged Asbestos-Containing Materials (ACMs) can sometimes be repaired by sealing or enclosing them. However, you should only attempt to do this if you have had the necessary training. Any badly-damaged asbestos material that is likely to become further damaged should be removed if it cannot be protected. Some materials (sprayed asbestos coatings, asbestos lagging / insulation or asbestos insulating board) should only be removed by a licensed contractor. Your local Environmental Health Officer can provide advice on this.

If you are planning any DIY home improvements, repairs or maintenance – and intend to bring in any additional builders, maintenance workers or contractors – you should inform them of any asbestos materials in your home before they start work. This will help reduce the risks of any ACMs being disturbed. The Health & Safety Executive strongly encourages the use of trained professionals to repair or remove ACMs. If you choose to carry out DIY repairs or remove damaged asbestos materials yourself, make sure you wear the right protective equipment and follow safe working methods. For advice on doing this, look at the HSE's website on Asbestos.

### **For Further Advice**

Contact your local Environmental Protection Team at your local Borough / District Council offices or the Health & Safety Executive by visiting their webpages using the following link: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/>