



ALERT

ASBESTOS REMOVAL GUIDE

This fact sheet has been developed to inform homeowners on issues related to asbestos. Asbestos presents a health hazard if fibres of a respirable size become airborne and are then inhaled. Possible health effects include lung cancer, asbestosis (lung scarring that impairs breathing), mesothelioma (lung cancer) and benign plural diseases (disease affecting lung linings).

Types of Asbestos

There are two main types of materials containing asbestos that are used in building: friable (loose) asbestos; and bonded (non friable) asbestos.

- Friable (loose) asbestos—Friable asbestos refers to any asbestos containing material that when dry, can be easily crumbled by hand. Common examples of friable asbestos are acoustic ceilings and tiles, many types of plasters, wallboard, sprayed asbestos insulation and pipe and boiler insulation. Use of asbestos in these products was banned in the 1980s, but some may still have been used in later construction. Sweeping, dusting or using a household vacuum will make these fibres airborne. This type of asbestos can only be removed by a person holding an 'A Class' licence (see below).
- Bonded (non-friable) asbestos—Bonded asbestos contains a binder or hardening agent such as cement, asphalt or vinyl and is difficult to damage by hand. Common examples of bonded asbestos are asphalt roofing shingles, vinyl asbestos floor tiles, asbestos-cement sheets (fibro) and electrical switchboards.

Licences required to remove asbestos

The removal of asbestos is licensed by Workplace Health and Safety (WHS). A person removing more than 10 m² of asbestos must have an 'A Class' or 'B Class' WHS licence.

- 'A Class' Licence—is required to remove loose (friable) asbestos.
- 'B Class' Licence—is required to remove 10 m² or more of bonded asbestos.
- Removing less than 10 m² does not require a licence, BUT SAFETY PRECAUTIONS are essential. Consult with WHS before attempting to remove asbestos.



Asbestos Removal Guide—page 2

Disaster Recovery Information

Often there is building work associated with asbestos removal (for example, replacement of a ceiling, roof etc). Building work valued in excess of \$3,300 must be performed by a licensed BSA contractor.

Environmental Tips

- Play it safe with asbestos.
- Don't store or reuse any asbestos materials you have removed.
- Don't dispose of asbestos wastes in a normal rubbish bin or skip or during council bulk waste collections.
- Don't dump asbestos waste in the environment. Fines apply.

Useful Contacts

Building Services Authority Phone: 1300 272 272 Web: www.bsa.qld.gov.au

Workplace Health and Safety Phone: 1300 744 636 / 1300 369 915

Web: www.health.qld.gov.au / www.whs.qld.gov.au

Asbestos Industry Association Phone: 07 3870 5561

Web: www.asbestosindustry.asn.au

National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA)

Phone: 07 3870 3844

Web: www.nata.asn.au

Asbestos & You

Web: www.asbestosandyou.com.au

Demolishers, Recyclers & Asbestos Contractors Association of Queensland Inc.

Phone: 3881 2999

Web: www.demolishersassocqld.com.au

For further information on working with asbestos, contact Workplace Health and Safety using the contact details above. If you require information about licensing for associated building work, contact BSA on 1300 272 272 or visit www.bsa.qld.gov.au.

Disclaimer: Please note that any material printed is regarded as an uncontrolled copy. It is the responsibility of the person printing the document to refer frequently to the latest electronic copies for updates.