

# ASBESTOS INFORMATION

## What is asbestos?

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral made up of tiny fibres. It is a very strong material and is resistant to heat, fire, chemicals, and wear and tear, which is why before the health risks were identified, it was used in many different applications:

- Cement sheet cladding
- Backing for floor tiles and vinyl
- Insulation board around fire places
- Textured ceilings
- Insulation lagging
- Vehicle brakes and clutches
- Textiles
- Spouting and guttering parts

## Where might you find asbestos throughout your home?

Even though asbestos containing products were phased out in the 80s, products and appliances containing asbestos could still be present, especially in homes built before 1990. A few examples of where you may find asbestos are listed below:

- Roofing tiles and shingles
- Asbestos-cement sheet cladding on fences and exterior walls
- Older houses (1930-1950) may have asbestos insulation in the walls
- Textured paint, patching compounds, and textured ceilings
- Vinyl floor tiles and linoleum, also the backing sheets and adhesives for vinyl flooring
- Ironing board pads
- Hot water, steam pipes, coal furnaces and door gaskets in older houses can have asbestos insulation
- Soil contamination from deteriorating roof or wall cladding, or from incorrect removal or storage

## What if there might be asbestos in my home?

If you are unsure whether your home contains asbestos contact the **Marlborough Public Health Service on 03 520 9914** and they will advise you on what to do next. The only way to know for certain whether asbestos is present, is by getting it tested in an approved laboratory. You can contact the **Marlborough Public Health Service on 03 520 9914** for more information on testing.

Note that if the asbestos containing materials are in good condition, generally they will not release asbestos fibres, and there is no danger unless the fibres are released (by damage to the asbestos containing material) and are inhaled into your lungs. For example, breaking, drilling into, sawing, or sanding down asbestos containing material

releases airborne fibres which pose a health risk. This is why it is important to know if your house contains asbestos, especially before renovations or repairs.

## Should I remove asbestos if it is in my home?

It is strongly recommended that you get the help of a WorkSafe NZ licensed asbestos removalist to remove any asbestos containing material from your residence. Exposure to asbestos fibres is dangerous to your health and removal work must be undertaken with the proper precautions.

You can access a list of licensed asbestos removalists at:

**<https://worksafe.govt.nz/topic-and-industry/asbestos/licensing/licence-holder-register/>**

If you intend to carry out any asbestos related work yourself, make sure you are fully prepared and check out the Ministry of Health booklet: Removing Asbestos From Your Home

**<https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/removing-asbestos-your-home>**

The WorkSafe NZ Approved Code of Practice: Management and Removal of Asbestos also has further information on asbestos removal.

The above information has been taken from the Ministry for Health Asbestos pages, for more information please check out: **<https://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/healthy-living/environmental-health/hazardous-substances/asbestos>**

## **ASBESTOS DISPOSAL IN MARLBOROUGH:**

Asbestos containing material must be disposed of properly to protect yourself, the public, and staff working at refuse disposal sites.

**DO NOT** throw asbestos containing material away in a skip, your kerbside bags, recycling bins or wheelie bins.

**DO NOT** throw out asbestos containing material with your general waste at the transfer station.

**DO NOT** move the material out of the area until it has been properly double wrapped and disposal has been organised correctly.

**DO NOT** bring unwrapped asbestos to the transfer station

The Hazardous Waste Facility can accept small quantities (under 10m<sup>2</sup>) of non-friable double wrapped asbestos.

Contact JBL Environmental Ltd on 03 578 9622 or [info@jblenvironmental.co.nz](mailto:info@jblenvironmental.co.nz) for more information.

Disposal of double wrapped asbestos containing material at the Hazardous Waste Facility must be pre-organised before drop off.

# **ASBESTOS DISPOSAL**

## **INFORMATION**

### **A note on asbestos removal:**

From 4 April 2016, if more than 10 m<sup>2</sup> of non-friable asbestos has to be removed over the whole course of the project for the site, it must be done by a licensed asbestos removalist.

All friable asbestos removal work (where the number of fibres released is likely to be high) must also be carried out by a licensed asbestos removalist. This includes work on asbestos lagging, asbestos insulation and damaged asbestos board.

**For information on dealing with asbestos, health effects, necessary protection, and a list of licensed removalists go to [www.worksafe.govt.nz](http://www.worksafe.govt.nz)**

### **Packaging**

**Asbestos Waste Bags** - these are bags specifically manufactured for containing asbestos waste and can be purchased.

All asbestos waste, small pieces of non-friable asbestos, disposable protective gear, plastic drop sheets etc. must be contained to minimise airborne asbestos fibre exposure. They should be contained in new heavy-duty 200 µm (minimum thickness) polythene bags (with a maximum size of 1200 mm long and 900mm wide to reduce manual handling injuries).

Controlled wetting of the asbestos waste should be carried out to minimise asbestos dust emissions during bag or polythene sealing, or if the bag or wrapped bundles rupture. Close the bags with a gooseneck tie.

To minimise the risk of a bag tearing or splitting, and to help with manual handling, asbestos waste bags should not be more than half-filled (depending on the weight of the items). Gently remove excess air from the waste bag in a way that does not cause dust to release.

Mark the bags clearly '*Caution Asbestos – Do not open or damage bag. Do not inhale dust*'.

Clean the external surface of each bag to remove any dust before removing the bags from the asbestos work area. Double-bag them outside the asbestos work area immediately following the decontamination process.

**Polythene sheeting for containing asbestos waste** - this plastic can be purchased from hardware stores.

Asbestos items should be wrapped in heavy-duty 200 µm (minimum thickness) polythene sheeting.

Polythene sheeting should be new (not recycled, because recycled sheeting is a lower grade than new and can have flaws in it). Once wrapped, label the bundles to indicate the presence of asbestos.

Double-wrap the waste in polythene sheeting and apply adhesive tape to the entire length of every overlap to minimise the risk of the sheeting tearing or splitting.

If asbestos (small quantities) are to be dropped off at the Hazardous Waste Facility, packages should be no more than 25kgs in weight, and must be able to be manoeuvred easily by hand without the risk of tearing.

### **Disposal**

The Blenheim Hazardous Waste Facility only accepts small quantities of wrapped non-friable asbestos for disposal. For large quantities, please organise proper disposal to landfill via a skip company. If you need help organising this please contact JBL Environmental (details below).

### **Contact**

For any inquiries or questions on disposal, or to organise a drop off time,  
call **03 578 9622 or 027 371 6517**  
or email [info@jblenvironmental.co.nz](mailto:info@jblenvironmental.co.nz)

### **Further Information**

[www.worksafe.govt.nz](http://www.worksafe.govt.nz)  
[www.asbestosaware.co.nz](http://www.asbestosaware.co.nz)