

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I am buying an older house. How do I know if it contains asbestos?

Many houses built or renovated before the mid-1980s contain asbestos products. Have the house assessed by a qualified occupational hygienist or a licensed asbestos removalist.

Are houses with asbestos roofs safe?

If asbestos cement products are in sound condition and not disturbed, they do not pose a significant health risk. Replace roofing that is weathered, structurally unsound and no longer waterproof. Use a licensed asbestos removalist to remove and dispose of the roofing. A number of people have died or suffered serious injuries after falling through asbestos cement roofs. Never walk on an asbestos cement roof. They are brittle.

Some asbestos products have a low percentage of asbestos and are therefore safe for me to handle. Is that true?

If disturbed, treat all products containing any amount of asbestos as potentially dangerous. A licensed asbestos removalist should remove all asbestos containing material where possible.

Can I bury asbestos on my property?

No. It is illegal – and poses a health risk. It must be taken to a facility that can lawfully receive asbestos waste. See *Safely disposing of asbestos waste in your home* at www.environment.nsw.gov.au

Where do I dispose of asbestos sheeting?

Contact your local council for waste facilities in your area that can lawfully receive asbestos waste.

The Environment Protection Authority (Phone: 13 15 55) can provide information on transporting and disposing of asbestos waste or see *Safely disposing of asbestos waste in your home* at www.environment.nsw.gov.au

I am renovating my bathroom, kitchen and laundry. Should I be concerned about asbestos?

Asbestos products were often used in wet areas of older homes, built or renovated before the mid-1980s such as bathrooms, kitchens and laundries. If in doubt, have the material tested by a qualified professional and/or removed by a licensed asbestos removalist.

If am demolishing a fibro shed. What should I do?

If there is more than 10 square metres of fibro, get a licensed asbestos removalist. If there is less than 10 metres, refer to WorkCover's guide, *Working with asbestos* (catalogue no. WC05484) at www.workcover.nsw.gov.au

Where do I find an asbestos removalist, and how do I know they are licensed?

Asbestos removalists are listed in the Yellow Pages. Ask them for a copy of their licence, or call WorkCover on 13 10 50 to confirm if they have the appropriate class of licence for the job.