

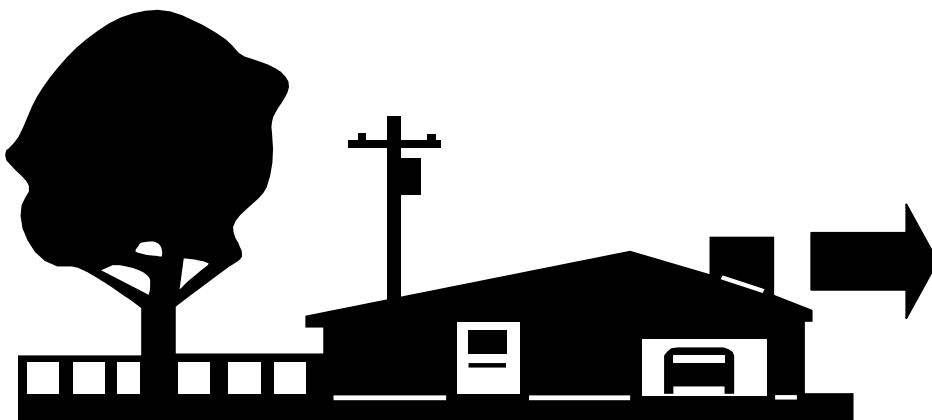


ASBESTOS INFORMATION GUIDE

SAFE REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF ASBESTOS CEMENT PRODUCTS

Health Services

July 2008



Removal of Asbestos Cement Building Products

TO RESIDENTS OF THE SHIRE OF GINGIN

Within the Shire of Gingin many dwellings exist with asbestos cement (AC) building products. When removing the asbestos, concerns may be raised on the best way to do this without creating a health risk to those involved or those living in neighbouring properties.

Left undisturbed in buildings, asbestos cement products do not pose any significant health risk. There is no need to remove or coat asbestos materials because of health concerns. Hazards are involved with mishandling of asbestos products when disassembling structures without taking the necessary precautions and carrying out good safety practices.

The most significant hazard of handling asbestos is when power tools are used to cut, drill, sand, grind or saw asbestos cement products. With the exception of removing screws from asbestos cement products, **power tools must not be used at any time.**

Weathering of asbestos may lead to the release of fibres when removing the materials, but if safe work procedures are followed, risks can be minimised.

Asbestos sheets are not to be reused.

WHY FOLLOW SAFE WORK PROCEDURES?

Significant health risks may arise from the inhalation of airborne asbestos fibres and their passage into the lungs. When handling asbestos products small fibrous particles may become airborne and inhaled. Asbestosis can be the result of inhalation of high concentrations of asbestos, a progressive scarring of the lung tissue.

Lung cancer and mesothelioma are the two main forms of cancer that are associated with inhalation of asbestos fibres measuring between 3 – 8 micrometres in length.

These researched facts about the possible effects of exposure to asbestos fibres through poor handling and absence of personal protective clothing of employees are the reasons why the Health (Asbestos) Regulations 1992 and the National Occupational Health & Safety Commission' Asbestos: Code of Practice 1988 were produced. Asbestos structures are not permitted to be cleaned with high-pressure hoses or similar and when removed from the structure, are to remain in one continuous sheet. **It is illegal to break up asbestos sheets.**

Disposal of asbestos is regulated through the *Environmental Protection (Controlled Waste) Regulations 2004* and *Health (Asbestos) Regulations 1992*.

Following these procedures will ensure that risks are minimised for those completing the works and all residing in surrounding areas.

This information pack was created as a guide to the safe removal of asbestos products. Should you require further information, do not hesitate to contact:

Principal Environmental Health Officer
Shire of Gingin
7 Brockman Street
GINGIN WA 6503
PHONE: 9575 2211
FAX: 9575 2121
E-MAIL: mail@gingin.wa.gov.au

Construction and Engineering Branch
WorkSafe Western Australian
Westcentre
1260 Hay Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005
PHONE: 9327 8777
E-MAIL: www.safetyline.wa.gov.au

COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: If we bring a sample of cement sheet in to Council, can it be identified as containing asbestos fibres?

A: NO. Council's Environmental Health Officers are not qualified in microscopic examination of products to verify whether or not they contain asbestos. General advice is given based on the age of the product. If the fibrous cement product was in use before 1987 it may contain asbestos. After this date, asbestos was no longer used in building products. Should any doubt exist as to whether it does or doesn't contain asbestos, treat with extreme care and take all necessary safety precautions when disturbing the product.

Q: When employing a contractor to remove asbestos – is there a registered list at Council?

A: NO. We have no powers to register asbestos contractors. When choosing a contractor it is in your best interests to find out what safety precautions the workers take, including personal protection and site safety. Should you have any concerns surrounding the work procedures of any contractors working within the Shire of Gingin, Councils Principal Environmental Health Officer can be contacted to further investigate issues.

Q: What are the costs involved if I remove the sheets myself?

A: Due to the special disposal requirements for asbestos, charges are imposed for disposing of asbestos sheets.

Gingin Landfill Site, Cockram Road

Up to 5 Sheets	\$50.00
Greater than 5 Sheets	\$275.50 (inc GST)

Please note that these prices are valid as at 1 July 2008

Lancelin Landfill Site, Perth/Lancelin Road

Up to 5 Sheets	\$50.00
Greater than 5 Sheets	\$275.50 (inc GST)

Seabird Landfill Site, Seabird Road

Up to 5 Sheets	\$50.00
Greater than 5 Sheets	\$275.50 (inc GST)

Ledge Point Landfill Site, Ledge Point Road

Up to 5 Sheets	\$50.00
Greater than 5 Sheets	\$275.50 (inc GST)

A charge of \$25.00m³ is applicable for all commercial quantities.

All asbestos must be wrapped in heavy builders' plastic, taped and tied into manageable bundles that you are able to remove from your trailer or truck at the landfill site. No Shire of Gingin staff are available to assist in the unloading of asbestos materials at the landfill site.

ASBESTOS MATERIALS SAFE WORK PROCEDURES
GUIDANCE NOTES

Health Services

Read items 1 – 13 and see attached diagrams and appendices to ensure safe working procedures when removing asbestos products. Council's Principal Environmental Health Officer will conduct periodic assessments to ensure compliance with these working procedures. Items are to be checked off when complied with.

No	Work Procedure	Guidance Notes/Attachments	Checked on site
1	When removing asbestos cement building products the surrounding area should have signs or barriers erected to warn of the danger and prevent unauthorised persons entering.	<i>See attached diagram 1A</i>	Checked <input type="checkbox"/> Initials
2	All persons in the asbestos removal area should wear disposable coveralls and either a Class L or M disposable mask.	<i>See attached diagram 2</i>	Checked <input type="checkbox"/> Initials
3	The asbestos cement sheets should be sprayed with a PVA solution or wetted and kept wet during removal.	<i>Wetting down the material reduces the release of dust. High pressure water jets are not permitted to be used. It is recommended that a manually controlled low pressure coarse spray garden hose be used.</i>	Checked <input type="checkbox"/> Initials
4	No power tools should be used, with the exception of removing screws.	<i>Non powered hand tools or portable power tools that incorporate dust suppression or dust extraction attachments designed to collect asbestos fibres are allowed.</i>	Checked <input type="checkbox"/> Initials
5	Asbestos sheets should be removed with minimal breakage and should be lowered to the ground, not dropped.		Checked <input type="checkbox"/> Initials
6	The removed sheets are to be kept stacked on polythene sheeting, wrapped and sealed into appropriately sized bundles for disposal.		Checked <input type="checkbox"/> Initials
7	Sheets should not be left lying about the site where they may be further broken or crushed by machinery or site traffic.		Checked <input type="checkbox"/> Initials
8	When stacking the removed sheets care should be taken not to skid one sheet over the surface of another as this action will result in scuffing and the release of fibres.		Checked <input type="checkbox"/> Initials
9	Gutters are to be cleaned or sealed prior to their removal.	<i>Vacuum cleaning equipment designed to collect asbestos fibres containing a HEPA filter can be used.</i>	Checked <input type="checkbox"/> Initials

No	Work Procedure	Guidance Notes/Attachments	Checked on site
10	Any asbestos cement residue remaining in the roof space or removal area is to be cleaned up, using an <u>approved</u> vacuum cleaner if necessary.	<i>Vacuum cleaning equipment can be used as above. The area can also be wetted down and swept, to contain asbestos materials.</i>	Checked <input type="checkbox"/> Initials
11	All waste containing asbestos is to be kept wet, wrapped in polythene or otherwise sealed and removed from site as soon as practicable.	<i>Solid asbestos waste is to be collected in polythene sheeting >0.2mm thick.</i> <i>Where bags are used, a maximum bag size of 1200mm x 900mm is recommended, fill bags to 50% capacity. It is advised that waste be double bagged.</i>	Checked <input type="checkbox"/> Initials Checked <input type="checkbox"/> Initials
12	Used disposable coveralls and masks are to be placed in bags for removal with asbestos waste.		Checked <input type="checkbox"/> Initials
13	All waste containing asbestos is to be labelled or marked with the words "CAUTION ASBESTOS" (40mm high letters) and disposed of at an approved site in accordance with the Health (Asbestos) Regulations 1992.	<i>See diagram 1B for recommended label for bags/containers containing asbestos cement products.</i> <i>Phone Shire of Gingin office on 9575 2211 for approved site contact numbers.</i>	Checked <input type="checkbox"/> Initials

Walking on an asbestos roof can be highly dangerous, particularly if the roof has undergone significant weathering. Many people have been injured falling through weathered AC roofs while attempting to treat or repair the roof surface. Another danger is that coatings applied to AC roofs can hide roofing nails, which normally indicate where it is safe to walk. When asbestos roofs are coated, safe walk areas should be clearly marked.

APPENDIX 1
DISPOSAL AND LANDFILL SITES

AC waste must be disposed of in accordance with the requirements of the Health (Asbestos) Regulations 1992 and the Environmental Protection (Controlled Waste) Regulations 2004.

Listed on page 3 are landfill sites that accept asbestos cement waste, however the Shire of Gingin should be contacted to determine conditions for disposal. Further information can also be obtained from the Department of Environmental Protection (Phone 9222 7000).

Warning Signs

Diagram 1A – see Work Procedure 1

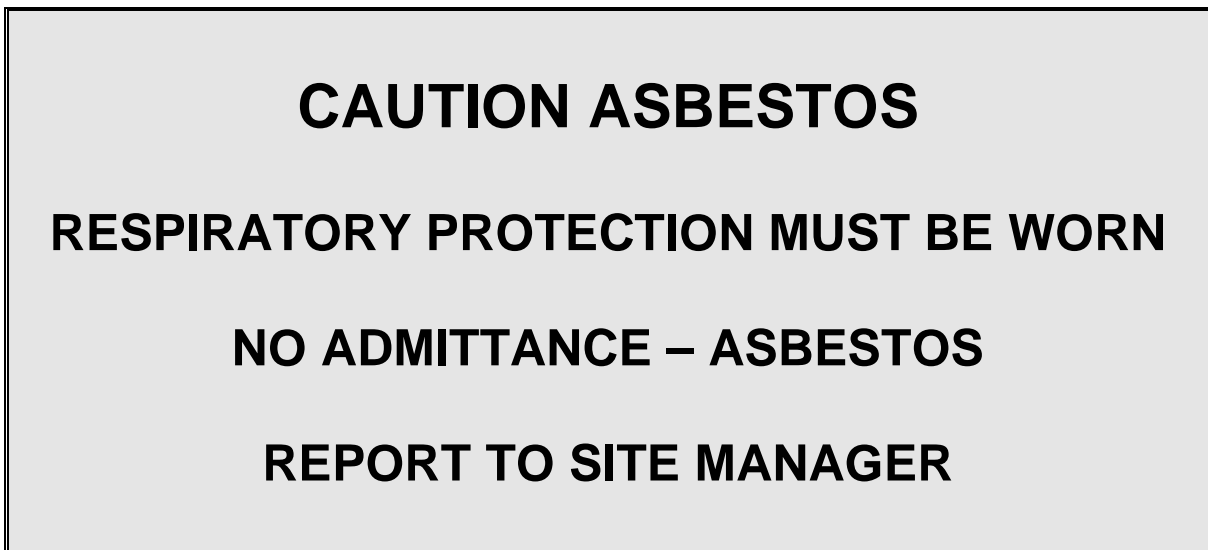


Diagram 1B – see Work Procedure 13

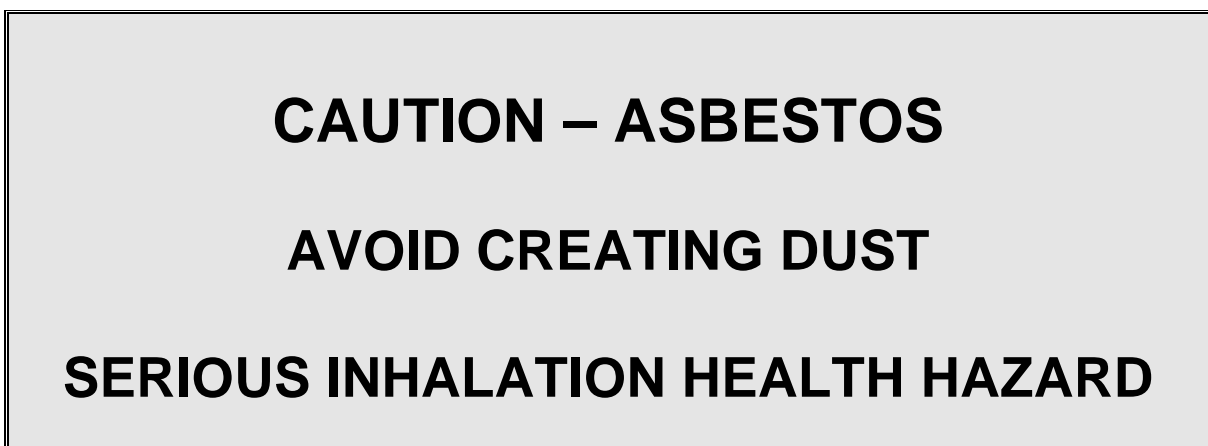
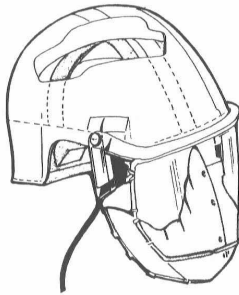
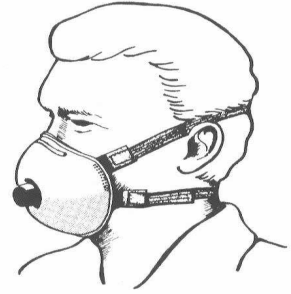


Diagram 2 – Approved Disposable Masks

See Work Procedure 2



*DISPOSABLE, HALF
FACE PARTICULATE
RESPIRATORS*



*POWERED AIR PURIFYING
VENTILATED HELMET
RESPIRATOR*