Inserting and removing screws through textured coatings

What this sheet covers

This sheet describes good practice when you need to insert and remove screws through textured coating.

This sheet is NOT appropriate:

- if work lasts more than one hour per week for a worker; or
- if work lasts two hours in total for two or more workers.

The work is still non-licensed but you need to make a risk assessment.

If the coating is on asbestos insulating board, see sheet a4.

Preparing the work area

- Restrict access - minimise the number of people present.
- Close doors. Use tape and notices to warn others.
- A two-stage airlock is not required.
- Ensure adequate lighting.

Equipment

- 500-gauge polythene sheeting and duct tape;
- warning tape and notices;
- Class H vacuum cleaner (BS EN 60335) - see sheet em4;
- permanent sealant;
- magnet;
- screwdriver;
- paint brush;
- bucket of water and rags;
- asbestos waste container, eg labelled polythene sack; and
- clear polythene sack.

Personal protective equipment (PPE) - see sheet em6

Provide:

- disposable overalls fitted with a hood;
- boots without laces (laced boots are hard to decontaminate); and
- respiratory protective equipment.

Procedure

- Can you use strong adhesive instead of screws?
- Remove furniture and fittings from the area, or protect them from contamination using 500-gauge polythene sheet.
- Protect nearby surfaces from contamination. Cover with 500-gauge polythene sheeting and fix with duct tape to non-asbestos surfaces.

Use shadow vacuuming to control dust when removing screws.
Inserting screw

- Hole drilling - see sheet a26.
- Paint sealant around the hole and fix the screw.

Removing screw

- Locate steel screws with the magnet. Locate brass screws by careful paint scraping.
- Use ‘shadow vacuuming’ to control dust - see sheet em4.
- Unscrew - put the screws in the waste container.
- Paint sealant around the hole.

Cleaning and disposal

- Clean the area and equipment with the Class H vacuum cleaner and damp rags.
- Put debris, used rags, paint brush, polythene sheeting and other waste in the asbestos waste container and tape it closed.
- Put the asbestos waste container in a clear polythene sack and tape it closed.
- Disposal - see sheet em9.

Personal decontamination

- See sheet em8

Clearance and checking off

- Visually inspect the area to make sure that it has been cleaned properly.
- Clearance air sampling is not normally required.
- Get the premises owner, duty-holder or client to check off the job.

SAFETY CHECKLIST

- Can you avoid disturbing asbestos by doing the job in some other way?
- Do you need a licence for the work?
- Always follow all legal requirements.
- Follow the task guidance sheet.
- Use an asbestos waste container.
- Dispose at a licensed disposal site.

Caution:

- Don’t sweep up dust or debris - use a Class H vacuum cleaner or damp rags.
- Don’t take used overalls home.
- Don’t re-use disposable PPE.
- Don’t smoke.
- Don’t eat or drink in the work area.

OTHER HAZARDS

Take precautions to avoid falls. Must you work from a ladder? Where necessary, erect an access platform.

There may also be other hazards you need to consider them all.