Clearing up debris following collapse of a ceiling or wall covered with textured coating

What this sheet covers
This sheet describes good practice when you need to clear up wall or ceiling debris with a textured coating.
This sheet does not apply to the removal or renovation of remaining coatings.
It is NOT appropriate if the coating covered asbestos insulating board. Use an HSE-licensed contractor for such work.

Preparing the work area
- Ensure that the area is safe to enter.
- Do you need to isolate any services?
- Restrict access - minimise the number of people present.
- A two-stage airlock is not required.
- Ensure adequate lighting.

Equipment
- Warning tape and notices;
- Class H vacuum cleaner (BS EN 60335) - see sheet em4;
- scoop or trowel;
- shovel;
- bucket of water and rags;
- asbestos waste container, eg labelled polythene sack;
- lockable skip for larger quantities of waste; 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
- Shovel or scoop smaller pieces into the asbestos waste container.
- Put larger amounts in the lockable skip.

Cleaning and disposal
- Clean contaminated furniture and furnishings with the Class H vacuum cleaner.
MORE HELP

- Licensed asbestos contractors, and training providers - HSE’s Infoline Tel: 0845 345 0055 Textphone: 0845 408 9577 e-mail: hse.infoline@natbrit.com and at www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/licensing/index.htm
- HSE priced and free publications - HSE Books Tel: 01787 881165 and at www.hsebooks.co.uk
- Qualified hygienists - The British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS) Tel: 01332 298101 and at www.bohs.org/ under ‘Professional > Consultants’
- Trade associations - the Asbestos Removal Contractors Association (ARCA) Tel: 01283 531126 Website: www.arcaweb.org.uk, or the Asbestos Control and Abatement Division (ACAD) Tel: 01325 466704
- More asbestos pictures - www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/gallery.htm
- Help to decide if work is licensed - www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/licensing/index.htm

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Download and follow these advice sheets from www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/essentials/index.htm:

em1 What to do if you uncover or damage materials that could contain asbestos
em2 Training
em4 Using a Class H vacuum cleaner for asbestos
em6 Personal protective equipment (PPE)
em7 Using damp rags to clean surfaces of minor asbestos contamination
em8 Personal decontamination
em9 Disposal of asbestos waste

OTHER HAZARDS

Manual handling - see www.hse.gov.uk/msd/index.htm. Plan how to remove and handle heavy material and articles safely.

Electrical hazards - see www.hse.gov.uk/electricity/index.htm. Get a competent electrician to isolate and reconnect electricity supply.

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

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.

This guidance is issued by the Health and Safety Executive. Following the guidance is not compulsory and you are free to take other action. But if you do follow the guidance you will normally be doing enough to comply with the law. Health and safety inspectors seek to secure compliance with the law and may refer to this guidance as illustrating good practice.

This document is available at www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/essentials/index.htm

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