Replacing an asbestos-containing part in a ‘period’ domestic appliance

What this sheet covers

This sheet describes good practice when you need to remove an asbestos-containing replaceable part in a domestic appliance.

This is most likely if the appliance is a ‘heritage’ or ‘period’ piece, eg cooker, washing machine, dryer, dishwasher, freezer, radiator, oil stove, etc.

You must use a CORGI-registered contractor to disconnect and make safe gas appliances.

Preparing the work area

- Have a competent electrician to isolate the appliance from the electricity supply.
- Can you do the job outdoors?
- Restrict access - minimise the number of people present.
- Close doors. Use tape and notices to warn others.
- 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;
- screwdriver and spanners
- scraper;
- non-asbestos replacement part
- garden-type sprayer containing wetting agent, eg diluted washing-up liquid;
- 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.
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.

Procedure

■ Protect nearby surfaces from contamination. Cover with 500-gauge polythene sheeting and fix with duct tape to non-asbestos surfaces.
■ Protect vulnerable components with polythene sheeting.

Removal

■ Vacuum inside the appliance. Remove with vacuuming all loose material or articles.
■ Unscrew or unbolt fixed parts using shadow vacuuming - see sheet em4. Put the fixings in the waste container.
■ Once accessible, dampen the asbestos. Continue dampening as it is exposed.
■ Ease the asbestos away, into the waste container.
■ Gently scrape off residues using ‘shadow vacuuming’ - see sheet em4.
■ Clean using damp rags and fit the replacement part.

Cleaning and disposal

■ Clean the appliance, the area and equipment with the Class H vacuum cleaner and damp rags.
■ Put used rags, 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.

OTHER HAZARDS

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

Slips and trips - see www.hse.gov.uk/slips/index.htm. Floors protected with polythene become very slippery when wet.

There may also be other hazards - you need to consider them all.
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 and help to decide if work is licensed - www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/index.htm

- CORGI - check your contractor’s registration at www.corgi-gas-safety.com

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
- em5 Wetting asbestos materials
- em6 Personal protective equipment (PPE)
- em7 Using damp rags to clean surfaces of minor asbestos contamination
- em8 Personal decontamination
- em9 Disposal of asbestos waste

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.

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

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Published by the Health and Safety Executive 12/07

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.