Repairing minor damage to asbestos insulating board (AIB)

What this sheet covers
This sheet describes good practice when you need to repair small areas of damaged AIB, e.g. a broken corner or scratches.

This sheet is NOT appropriate:
- If work lasts more than one hour per week for a worker, or two hours in total for two or more workers; or
- Where the material is badly damaged.

Use an HSE-licensed contractor for such work.

If AIB is in a position where further damage is likely, see sheet a8.

Preparing the work area
- Ensure safe access.
- 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;
- Liquid impact adhesive;
- Permanent sealant;
- Non-asbestos covering panel;
- Garden-type sprayer or small paint brush;
- Bucket of water and rags;
- Asbestos waste container, e.g. 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
- Protect nearby surfaces from contamination. Cover with 500-gauge polythene sheeting and fix with duct tape to non-asbestos surfaces.
- Remove small bits of loose board - use a damp rag. Put these in the waste container.
Paint the damaged area by brush or gentle spraying.
- After drying, cover gaps with the replacement panel. Attach it with adhesive.
- Wipe dusty surfaces with a damp rag.

**Cleaning and disposal**

- Clean the equipment and the area with damp rags.
- Put debris, used rags, polythene sheeting, paintbrush and other waste in the asbestos waste container and tape it closed.
- Also dispose of a used paint brush.
- 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.

**OTHER HAZARDS**

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