Enclosing undamaged asbestos materials to prevent impact damage

What this sheet covers

This sheet describes good practice when you need to protect asbestos materials from impact damage, and you do not want to remove them. Examples include:

- asbestos insulating board wall panels that could be damaged by trolleys; or
- lagged pipework running along the bottom of a wall that could be scuffed.

For minor repairs on asbestos insulating board see sheet a6.
For minor repairs on asbestos cement see sheet a13.

This sheet is NOT appropriate where the asbestos material is badly damaged or where you disturb the asbestos. Use an HSE-licensed contractor for such work.

Preparing the work area

- Restrict access - minimise the number of people present.
- Close doors. Use tape and notices to warn others.
- Ensure adequate lighting.

Equipment

- Warning tape and notices;
- liquid impact adhesive;
- screwdriver;
- nails or screws;
- hammer;
- non-asbestos board - this may need to meet an original specification, eg fire resistant;
- bucket of water and rags;
- asbestos waste container, eg labelled polythene sack; and
- clear polythene sack.

Use non-asbestos boarding to protect asbestos

Personal protective equipment (PPE)

- Provide:
  - disposable overalls fitted with a hood; and
  - boots without laces (laced boots are hard to decontaminate).
- A respirator is not normally required.

Procedure

- Box-in pipework without disturbing the asbestos.
- Where possible, fix replacement panels to non-asbestos materials - you can use nails or screws.

Asbestos fibres can kill.
Keep exposures low using all the controls in this sheet.
Also follow sheet a0 and equipment and method (em) sheets; see ‘Essential information’.

Main points

When you need to protect asbestos materials from impact damage, you do not want to remove them. Examples include:

If you have to attach panels to asbestos-containing materials use impact adhesive.
**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

- Disposal of asbestos waste -
  www.environment-agency.co.uk,
  www.sepa.org.uk/, or
  www.netregs.gov.uk/netregs.

- 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
- **em7** Using damp rags to clean surfaces of minor asbestos contamination
- **em8** Personal decontamination
- **em9** Disposal of asbestos waste

- Use adhesive to attach replacement panels to asbestos-containing materials.
- Seal the cavity and provide adequate fire barriers.
- Warn the building owner about the presence of asbestos-containing material, so it can be managed properly.

**Cleaning and disposal**

- Clean the equipment and the area with damp rags.
- Put debris, used rags 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.
- Disposable - 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**

**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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