

ASBESTOS ADVICE

Handling

- Refer attached Workplace Health and Safety factsheet

Disposal

- Keep it wet
- Avoid or minimize handling asbestos materials by hand.
- Small quantities co-mingled with other building material should be loaded mechanically and disposed with other building rubble.
- Significant quantities of fibro or AC sheeting should be left on private property for dealing with by licensed persons arranged by insurance companies.
- If separated from other waste, must be bagged and clearly **labeled with a capital 'A'** with the spray paint provided*.
- Dispose of gloves + mask in the same bag
- Where possible the asbestos waste should be transported for disposal to Stoters Hill. (**Ring first to advise of request to dispose of there on 4061 7393**) when labeled and bagged (will not accept if not bagged or labeled)
- Alternately leave on the footpath bagged and labeled for later collection and kept separately from other waste on the footpath.
- Must ensure that bagged asbestos is able to be lifted by two people

Further enquiries:

Handling - 1800 177 717

**Disposal - Council 4030 2265 - Stoters Hill waste transfer station
4061 7393**

***Asbestos packs (gloves, masks), plus bags and spray paint available behind Council building (back door @ car park off Owen Street)**

What should I do to remove and dispose of asbestos?

Handle and remove asbestos safely

- **Do not use power tools** on fibro, except for the removal of screws.
- **Do not use a high pressure water blaster to clean down asbestos cement roofs. Preferably scrub only with a stiff broom when wet.** If the material has been accidentally water blasted or has deteriorated in some way, you need to call a licensed asbestos removal contractor. Best of all, use chemical cleaning.
- **Wet fibro gently** with water during its removal. Take care on roofs because fibro is brittle and it is slippery when wet.
- **Wet down or spray deteriorated or damaged sheets with a sealant.** Take care because of electrical hazards, brittleness of old or deteriorated sheets or extreme slipping hazards on wet, mouldy roofs.
- **Avoid drilling around the roof area.** Do not drill holes through eaves, flues or vents. Never cut into a fibro sheet. Instead remove the entire sheet and replace it with a non-asbestos product.
- **Don't drop fibro sheets.** Remove fibro with minimal breakage, and lower it to the ground.
- **Use non-powered hand tools or portable power tools that have dust suppression and dust extraction attachments** designed to collect asbestos fibres.
- **Don't use compressed air to clean down any surfaces contaminated with asbestos.** This only disperses fibres into the air.

Protect yourself and others

- **Cover up and protect yourself.** Wear disposable coveralls, gloves and an approved particulate respirator in the work area. It may be a disposable P1 or P2 type. Ordinary dust masks, such as those with a single strap are not effective in preventing the inhalation of asbestos fibres and dust. Thoroughly wash your hands and shower and wash your hair after handling asbestos-cement products.
- **Avoid walking on corrugated asbestos-cement roofs.** People have been injured by falling through weathered roofs.
- **Keep household members and pets away** from the area until the work is completed.

Dispose of asbestos properly

- **Stack and wrap.** Stack sheets carefully on polythene sheeting, then, wrap and seal into bundles for disposal, or place directly into disposal bins that have been lined with polythene sheeting and seal for disposal.
- **No skidding.** When stacking sheets, do not skid one sheet over another as this will cause release of fibres.
- **Remove immediately.** All waste containing asbestos is to be kept wet, wrapped in polythene or otherwise sealed, and removed from the site as soon as practicable.
- **Do not use domestic vacuum cleaners on asbestos dusts.** Wet down all dust and mop or wipe it up. The inhalable asbestos fibres are too fine to be captured by the filtering mechanism in regular domestic vacuum cleaners. Only vacuum cleaners fitted with high efficiency particle filters (HEPA) should be used.
- **Clean up.** Mops should be cleaned by thoroughly washing in a sink connected to the sewer or septic tank system. Used disposable coveralls and respirators are to be placed in bags and sealed for removal with other asbestos waste. Contact your local council or authority for approved disposal sites. If non-disposable clothing is worn, after use place contaminated clothing in a plastic bag for washing. The clothing should be thoroughly wetted before removal from the bag and washed separately from other clothing.
- **Call your local authority to remove asbestos waste.** Clearly label packages to identify the contents as follows: Caution — Asbestos. Do not open or damage bag. Do not inhale dust.

Further information

Innisfail Shire Council
Phone: (07) 4030 2265

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland
Phone Townsville: (07) 4760 7926
Phone Cairns: (07) 4048 1436
Website: www.dir.qld.gov.au

How to handle asbestos safely following Cyclone Larry



Houses and workplaces built before 1990 are likely to contain asbestos. However, you can't tell if materials contain asbestos just by looking at them, so you should assume that it is asbestos and treat it as such.

Although asbestos can have dangerous health effects, it is safe if handled correctly.

It is essential to protect yourself and others in the removal of debris.

Precautions should be taken by anyone needing to disturb any asbestos. Everyone must take great care as asbestos fibres can be released through sawing, drilling or breaking up of asbestos products.

This fact sheet provides information on precautions that should be taken by anyone needing to disturb or remove asbestos-containing materials, and details how to safely dispose of asbestos waste.

What is asbestos and where is it found?

As a general rule, if your house was built:

- after 1990 it is **highly unlikely** it would contain building materials that contain asbestos
- between the mid 1980s and 1990 it is **likely** that it would contain building materials that contain asbestos
- before the mid 1980s it is **more than likely** that it would contain building materials that contain asbestos.

The most commonly found household building materials that contain asbestos are asbestos-cement products (also called 'fibro' and 'AC sheeting').

Asbestos-cement products in the home may include:

- flat or corrugated sheeting (commonly called 'fibro' or 'AC sheeting')
- water or flue pipes
- roof shingles
- flexible building boards
- imitation brick cladding
- plaster patching compounds
- textured paint
- vinyl floor tiles
- backing of linoleum floor coverings.

A loose form of asbestos fibres (also known as friable asbestos) may be found in a few older forms of insulation used in domestic heaters and stoves, and in ceiling insulation products. Ceiling insulation containing asbestos was generally used in commercial buildings.

Can I remove asbestos from my home myself?

A householder should be cautious when removing asbestos from their property. Asbestos poses a health risk during removal, packaging, transport and disposal, so it is important that it is handled safely during these operations.

Friable asbestos (loosely-bound asbestos) is extremely dangerous and should only be removed by a licensed professional. The health risks associated with handling this type of material are far greater than for bonded (firmly-bound) asbestos.