

Asbestos Awareness Frequently Asked Questions

I am buying an older house, how do I know if it contains asbestos?

Many houses built before the mid-1980s were made from asbestos products. Have the house assessed by a qualified occupational hygienist or other suitably qualified professional. Visit www.yellowpages.com.au and search for Asbestos testing within Wollongong region, NSW.

Are houses with asbestos roofs safe?

If asbestos cement products are in sound condition and not disturbed, they do not pose a significant health risk. Replace roofing that is weathered, structurally unsound and no longer waterproof. A number of people have died or suffered serious injuries after falling through asbestos cement roofs. Never walk on an asbestos cement roof. They are brittle.

Some asbestos products have a low percentage of asbestos and are therefore safe for me to handle. Is that true?

Treat all products containing any amount of asbestos as potentially dangerous if disturbed. A licenced asbestos removalist should remove all asbestos containing material (ACM).

Can I bury asbestos on my property?

No. It is illegal – and poses a health risk. It must be taken to a facility that can lawfully receive asbestos waste. For more information visit www.epa.nsw.gov.au/managewaste/house-asbestos.htm

Where and how do I dispose of asbestos sheeting?

Although householders are legally entitled to carry out asbestos removal, we DO NOT recommend this practice. An unlicensed person may remove non-friable asbestos material if the area does not exceed 10 square metres and the total time over which the removal is performed does not exceed one hour in any 7-day period. Find out more visit www.asbestosawareness.com.au

The EPA can provide information on transporting and disposing of asbestos waste by calling 13 15 55 or visit their website www.epa.nsw.gov.au/managewaste/house-asbestos.htm

There are no approved sites for asbestos disposal within the Wollongong region. Using a licensed waste removal company is the safest way for collection and removal of asbestos

I am renovating my bathroom, kitchen and laundry. Should I be concerned about asbestos?

Asbestos products were often used in wet areas of older homes, such as bathrooms, kitchens and laundries. If in doubt, have the material tested by a qualified professional and/or removed by a licenced asbestos removalist.

If I am demolishing a fibro shed, what should I do?

If there is more than 10 square metres of fibro you MUST use a licenced asbestos removalist. If there is less than 10 square metres, refer to enHealth's guide –

[www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ohp-enhealth-asbestos-may2012.htm/\\$File/asbestos-feb13.pdf](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ohp-enhealth-asbestos-may2012.htm/$File/asbestos-feb13.pdf)

Where do I find an asbestos removalist, and how can I be sure that they are licenced?

For a full list of asbestos removal businesses, visit www.yellowpages.com.au and search for asbestos removals. Alternatively, visit www.recyclingnearyou.com.au/asbestos/WollongongNSW. They can also be found through the Asbestos Removal Contractors Association NSW at www.arcansw.asn.au. Ask them for a copy of their licence, or call SafeWork NSW on 13 10 50 to confirm if they have the appropriate class of licence for the job.

Who to contact?**Safe management of asbestos in your home:**

- General asbestos safety issues - Local Council
- Derelict properties - Local Council

Complaints about unsafe work at a residential property:

- Work conducted by a neighbour - Local Council
- Work conducted by a contractor or worker - SafeWork NSW
- Licensed removal work at a residence - SafeWork NSW
- Removal work carried out by the homeowner or tenant as part of renovations or demolition work - Local Council
- Small removal and maintenance jobs able to be carried out by homeowner/tenant - Local Council