

a21

asbestos essentials

Non-licensed tasks

Essential information

Important: You must read sheet a0 *Introduction to asbestos essentials*

Also read the following sheets:

em0 Risk assessments and plans of work

em1 What to do if you discover or accidentally disturb asbestos during your work

em2 Information, instruction and training

em5 Wetting asbestos materials

em7 Using damp rags to clean surfaces of minor asbestos contamination

em8 Personal decontamination

em9 Disposal of asbestos waste

Removing asbestos-containing bituminous products, such as roofing felt, gutter linings or damp-proof courses

What this sheet covers

This sheet describes good practice when you need to remove asbestos-containing bituminous products such as built-up roofing, gutter linings or damp-proof courses.

This sheet is *not* appropriate for work with metal cladding lined with asbestos-containing bitumen (eg 'Galbestos') – see sheet a22.

Preparing the work area

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

Equipment

- 500-gauge polythene sheeting and duct tape
- Warning tape and notices
- Sharp knife
- Scraper
- Shovel
- Garden-type sprayer containing wetting agent
- Bucket of water and rags
- Asbestos waste bag
- Clear polythene bag
- Lockable skip for larger quantities of waste
- For roof work, interlocking bucket-type rubble chute into the skip

Caution

It is dangerous to seal over exhaust vents from gas-fired equipment. Can the equipment be turned off?

For roof work, check if the roof may be fragile.

Don't rip up asbestos bituminous felt; never burn the debris.

Other hazards

Work at height – see www.hse.gov.uk/work-at-height. Take precautions to avoid falls.

Work on fragile roofs – see www.hse.gov.uk/construction. Fragile roofs cannot bear weight.

Manual handling – see www.hse.gov.uk/msd. Plan how to remove and handle heavy material and articles safely.

There may be other hazards – you need to consider them all.



Built-up bituminous roofing and bituminous asbestos fabric over a doorway

Personal protective equipment (PPE)



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

Procedure

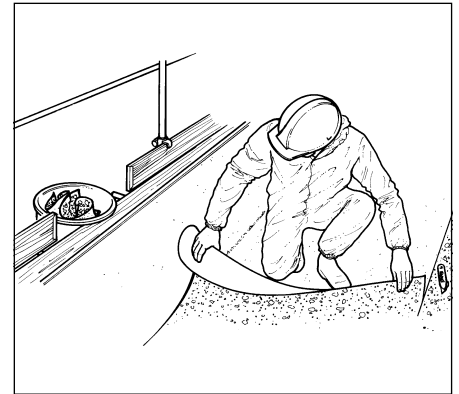
- Seal access points, eg skylights, with polythene sheeting and duct tape.

Overlaying

- Can you avoid removal, eg by overlaying with non-asbestos bituminous felt?
- Warn the building owner about the presence of asbestos material you have covered by overlaying so it can be managed properly.

Removal

- Can you minimise the amount for removal, cutting around the area?
- For safe handling, cut and remove manageable sections.
- Place these in the chute or the skip.
- Remove adhering material by dampening and gentle scraping.
- Collect up all debris.
- Remove large dust deposits by dampening and shovelling into the asbestos waste bag.
- Dampen dust and debris from disintegrating felt and place in the asbestos waste bag.



Cut and remove manageable sections

Cleaning and disposal

- Clean the equipment with damp rags.
- Dismantle and decontaminate the chute with damp rags.
- Put debris, used rags, polythene sheeting and other waste in the asbestos waste bag and tape it closed.
- Put the asbestos waste bag in a clear polythene bag 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, dutyholder or client to check off the job.

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