



## DISPOSAL OF ASBESTOS CONTAINING MATERIAL



### What is Asbestos?

Asbestos is a fibrous mineral capable of disintegrating into airborne fibres which are a health hazard.

### Dangers associated with asbestos

Asbestos was used in a variety of places from the 1940's to early 1990's. If you are considering renovating and your house was built between these years get some advice on how to safely remove the asbestos containing material as it is likely that asbestos was used in some form.

If the asbestos is broken during the renovation the tiny fibres, which cannot be seen with the naked eye,

can be inhaled leading to serious health issues such as mesothelioma, lung cancer or asbestosis.

Every precaution should be taken to avoid breathing the asbestos.

### Asbestos Wastes

There are 2 broad categories:-

- Bonded products in which the asbestos is tightly bound into a cement or resin product such as fibro sheets and pipes, fire-resistant insulation boards, brake discs and pads, vinyl floor coverings. Bonded products do not constitute a health hazard unless asbestos fibres are released and become airborne.
- Fibrous products in which the asbestos is not firmly mixed and are therefore more prone to release fibres, examples include sprayed asbestos ceilings, thermal lagging and fire protective clothing.

Asbestos wastes may be in the form of loose fibres, dust, floor sweeping, filings, sheets, boards, pipes, moulded products contaminated packaging, sludge, and slurries.

Major sources of asbestos wastes arise from the demolition of old buildings, dismantling of plant, delagging of thermally insulated boilers, breaking up of ships.

Transport and disposal of asbestos material must be carried out in such a way as to prevent the release of asbestos fibres into the air. Because there is a risk of asbestos waste breaking down and releasing fibres, all asbestos materials must be disposed of at an approved site [Workplace Health and Safety Regulation 2011].

## Disposal

Roof and wall unbroken sheeting should be placed in heavy duty 0.2 mm thick polyethylene sheeting and double wrapped and sealed with tape for disposal.

Broken sheeting and associated waste should be placed directly into disposal bins that have been double lined with polyethylene sheeting and sealed for removal or double bagged in heavy duty 0.2 mm thick polyethylene plastic bags. The bags should be no larger than 1200 mm x 900 mm. To make handling and sealing easier, the bag should only be partially filled and "ASBESTOS" written on the outside of the bags indicating the contents [Workplace Health and Safety Regulation 2011].

## Procedures for Disposal of Asbestos Wastes

1. Asbestos waste can only be disposed of at the Maryborough Recycling Centre and Landfill. Asbestos waste cannot be dumped at any other landfill or transfer station site. Contact Fraser Coast Regional Council on 1300 794 929 during business hours for more information.
2. All asbestos waste for landfill disposal must be double wrapped or double bagged in heavy duty 0.2 mm polyethylene sheeting and tape sealed (damaged sheeting or bags will not be accepted) and clearly marked 'ASBESTOS'.
3. At least 24-hours notice must be given before the required disposal time, stating type of asbestos waste, quantity, owner of material and contractor (if applicable).
4. Asbestos from Domestic sources under 10 m<sup>2</sup> in quantity can be disposed of at any time during normal operational hours without prior notice.
5. The appropriate disposal fees must be paid to the weighbridge attendant at the Maryborough Landfill, and a Regulated Waste Form must be completed before disposal.
6. The transport of asbestos should comply with the Australian "Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods" (ADG Code).
7. Further information is available in the "Asbestos, the Home Renovators Guide" which can be downloaded at [www.health.qld.gov.au/asbestos](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/asbestos) or Queensland Health on 1300 744 636.
8. For information on the Workplace Health and Safety Legislation in relation to asbestos contact the Division of Workplace Health and Safety, 63 Ellena Street, Maryborough, 4121 1714 or fax 4121 1704.
9. As a general rule, any fibrous sheeting (roof or wall) on a structure built before 1990 should be regarded as containing asbestos.



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