

# Merlin

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## Asbestos safety in your home



## **What is asbestos?**

Asbestos is a naturally occurring material, extensively used as a building material between the 1950s and 1980s. It was used because it had many useful properties, such as resistance to heat and fire. Asbestos was also used in household products such as oven gloves, fire blankets and ironing boards. But it stopped being used after it was discovered that exposure to loose asbestos fibres was dangerous to health. Properties built after 2000 are highly unlikely to contain asbestos.

## **Why may asbestos be a problem?**

Asbestos containing material is safe if it is left undisturbed and undamaged. However, if a material containing asbestos becomes damaged it may release fibres into the air which could be harmful if breathed in. If you believe that you have asbestos material that is damaged in your home, try to isolate the area, dampen the suspected material, and then contact us on 0300 123 2222.





When you contact us we will check our asbestos register. This is a list of all our homes where we know asbestos-containing materials are present. It may be necessary for us to carry out a survey and take samples to analyse for your safety.

If this is the case we will let you know and organise the survey. If we know the damaged material contains asbestos we will arrange for it to be removed.

### **Where are asbestos materials commonly found?**

Indoors:

- Decorative coatings on ceilings and walls commonly called artex
- Linings for walls, ceilings, ducts and risers

- Bath panels
- Floor tiles and adhesive
- Cement products, boarding around fire places, loft hatches and under stairs.

Outdoors:

- Eaves and soffits
- Rain water pipes and gutters
- Garage and shed roofs (corrugated sheets)
- Garage and shed walls.

### **How can I identify asbestos containing materials in my home?**

The simple answer is you can't. The only way to know for sure is to have a sample taken by a specialist surveyor and the sample analysed in a laboratory.

## Carrying out DIY in your home?

If you are carrying out DIY in your home you should take extra care. It is important that you:

- Do not drill, cut or sand any materials suspected of containing asbestos
- Do not cut or break off any parts of asbestos products
- Use hand tools instead of power tools
- Keep the material wet to avoid producing dust
- Wear disposable paper overalls
- Wear a disposable mask CE marked to EN149 with FFP3
- Keep others away from work area
- Clean up carefully using wet wipes or damp clothes after completing the work. Do not use your vacuum cleaner as this could spread the dust around.
- Remove overalls carefully avoiding raising dust. Double bag them with other cleaning materials, and mark the bag asbestos waste.





## **How do I dispose of asbestos waste?**

Asbestos waste is classed as hazardous and should be double packed in stout polythene bags and labelled as Asbestos Waste. If you are removing an asbestos cement sheet, you should remove it as individual sheets and not cut it up. If it is dry, spray the sheets with water while you are dismantling them to avoid dust. Then wrap them in double polythene sheets marked Asbestos Waste.

Do not put asbestos waste in your dustbin. It needs to be disposed of at a properly licensed waste site. Contact us to get details of local recycling centres. Check with the waste and recycling centre that they have facilities and space to accept the waste.

## **Any other questions?**

Please contact us  
on 0300 123 2222



AAA

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# Merlin

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