

# The London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames

## Asbestos Guidance Notes

### Introduction

Asbestos is manufactured from naturally occurring minerals. It is used because of its resistant to heat and chemicals. There are three types of asbestos that have been used in the UK.

- *Crocidolite* (blue asbestos) - Has not been imported into this country since about 1972 and was used for insulation lagging and sprayed coating.
- *Amosite* (brown asbestos) - Was used in thermal insulation up to the late 1960s and in various sprayed applications and insulating boards until the middle and late 1970s.
- *Chrysotile* (white asbestos) – Was commonly used in domestic appliances and buildings.

### Uses of Asbestos

#### **Asbestos – cement products:**

(asbestos content 10 – 15%, but sometimes up to 40%)

Asbestos cement is the most commonly used asbestos material. It can be found as corrugated roofs on sheds or garages, roofing tiles or slates, guttering, drain pipes, flue pipes water tanks, in bath panels and eaves.

#### **Soft Asbestos (lagging):**

(asbestos content 55-100%)

Asbestos lagging has been used for thermal insulation of pipes and boilers. It is very rarely found in homes, especially those constructed after the mid 1970s. It was banned in 1986. **(Do not attempt to remove it yourself)**

#### **Insulating Board:**

(asbestos content 20-45%)

Insulating boarding has been used for fire protection, heat and sound insulation. It is particularly common in 1960s and 1970s system-built housing and is found in materials such as ducts, infill panels, ceiling tiles, wall lining, bath panels and partitions. It is unlikely to be found in building constructed after 1982. **(Do not attempt to remove it yourself)**

## **Sprayed coating:**

(asbestos content up to 85%)

Sprayed asbestos coatings were used for fire protection of structural steel and are commonly found in system-built flats built during the 1960s. The coating was mainly applied around the core of the building such as service ducts, lift shafts, soffits to communal walkways in blocks of flats and underground car parks for fire protection. Use stopped in 1974 and spraying of asbestos banned since 1986. **(Do not attempt to remove it yourself)**

## **What are the hazards?**

Asbestos material in good condition that cannot readily be damaged does not create a health risk. The risk only arises when the asbestos has been badly damaged so that microscopic asbestos fibres in the form of dust are released through mishandling, or in areas where it is subject to heavy wear and tear. These notes apply to structures such as sheds and garages.

## **Removal of asbestos**

The removal of *soft asbestos, asbestos insulating board (similar to plaster board) and sprayed asbestos coating* should only be carried out by a professional stripping company licensed by the Health and Safety Executive. The work has to be undertaken in accordance with a strict code of practice involving the use of specialised equipment and protective clothing. The aim is to keep the material whole if possible, to prevent any spread of dust fibres and keep people away from removal areas.

## **If Asbestos is not being removed:**

If the asbestos is in good order and repair, then **leave it alone** attempting to remove it is likely to create the potentially hazardous dust. The following can be performed:

- Seal and paint – prime asbestos sheet with alkali resistant primer. Finish off with emulsion or gloss paint. **Do not sand or scrape the material prior to painting.**
- Cover sheet asbestos with wallpaper (fixed with strong adhesive) or with hardboard.
- Seal and paint with a bitumastic paint e.g. “Aquaseal” or “Synthaprufe.”
- Seal with PVC adhesive e.g. “Unibond.”

## **Removal of asbestos cement products only.**

### **Options:**

**Asbestos removal contractor** – Will have the knowledge, expertise and equipment to do the job and the disposal safely.

**General builder** – many builders can do such work without a licence. They must, however, adhere to safe working methods and make provision for proper disposal.

**Do-It-Yourself** – You must plan the job, obtain materials and equipment and make arrangements for disposal. Most jobs can be done relatively safely if you pay attention to detail.

### **Action to be taken when removing asbestos cement (Corrugated roof of a shed or garage).**

Householders or general builders can undertake the removal of asbestos cement products provided that the following precautions are observed.

- Keep other people away from the work area.
- Wear protective clothing, preferably a disposable hooded overall over clothing, and a mask, to avoid breathing in asbestos dust.
- Keep asbestos materials wet to avoid producing dust.
- Work outside or in well ventilated areas. If possible and avoid working overhead.
- Do not drill, cut or disturb asbestos unless absolutely necessary.
- Use hand tools rather than power tools.
- Avoid breaking asbestos-containing material into small pieces, i.e. do not use hammers or drop materials from heights into refuse skips.
- Stack the removed sheets in the open and cover with plastic sheeting.
- Never sweep asbestos pieces. Do not use a vacuum cleaner to clear up the dust. Hire an industrial vacuum cleaner that conforms to BS 5415 (Type H).
- Put pieces in stout plastic sacks and seal.

- When you have finished work, clean up and then take off the overalls carefully, to avoid raising any dust which may have been collected in the fabric. In the case of disposal overalls, double-bag them, clearly mark “**asbestos**” and dispose of as asbestos waste. Wash non-disposable overalls straight away, separately from other clothing, in a washing machine. Thoroughly wash exposed skin on completion of work.

## **How to Dispose of Asbestos?**

**Do not put asbestos waste into the dustbin.** There are special arrangements for the disposal of asbestos waste. Asbestos cement must be disposed of at a site, licensed to accept it.

Do not break up large asbestos-cement sheets – they do not need to be sealed in bags but should be wrapped in polythene or similar sheeting and disposed of as asbestos waste.

Small amounts of asbestos should be wetted and put into a strong plastic bag – sealed tightly and clearly marked “**ASBESTOS**”.

Asbestos cement must be disposed of at a site, licensed to accept it. Richmond Borough residents can take their own “household asbestos cement” to:

West London Waste Site  
Victoria Road  
South Ruislip  
0208 841 4546

They **do accept** commercial waste, with a minimum cost of £44.00 (which is subject to change) for weight up to 200 Kilos. They open 7 days a week from 8.00 –15.15 and 8 – 14.30 (Fridays only) for commercial trade only.

For the public they open 8.00 –16.00 (winter) and to 18.00 (summer) 7 days week.

The Corporation of London provides a free service for the collection of up to five bags of household asbestos in the London Area. The asbestos must be wrapped in heavy gauge polythene in quantities that can be lifted by one person. For further details on their service, telephone **020 7332 3433**.

## Dumped Asbestos

If you see what may be asbestos dumped in the streets anywhere in the Borough, contact **Environmental Services Department, Street Cleansing on 020 8891 7009**. They are responsible for keeping streets and pavements free from rubbish.

If you see what may be asbestos dumped in any other location in the borough, please contact **The Residential Team on 020 8891 7495** where an Environmental Health Officer will be able to give you advice.

## Further Information

If you have any queries or require further information, please contact Residential Team Environmental Health and a member of staff will assist you. **020 8891 4451**.

### CHECKLIST

(from HSE's "Managing Asbestos In Premises")

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>Find</b>      | You must check if the materials containing asbestos are present.  |
| <b>Condition</b> | You must check what condition the material is in.   |
| <b>Presume</b>   | You must assume the material contains asbestos unless you have strong evidence that it does not.  |
| <b>Identify</b>  | If you are planning to have maintenance or refurbishment of the building carried out or the material is in poor condition, you may wish to arrange for the material to be sampled and identified by a specialist. |
| <b>Record</b>    | Record the location and condition of the material on a plan or drawing.   |
| <b>Assess</b>    | You must decide if the condition or the location means the material is likely to be disturbed.  |
| <b>Plan</b>      | Prepare and implement a plan to manage these risks.   |

<b>Minor Damage</b>	<b>Good Condition</b>
<p>The material should be repaired and/or encapsulated.</p> <p>The condition of the material should be removed at regular intervals. Where practical the material should be labelled.</p> <p>Inform the contractor and any other worker likely to work on, or disturb, the material.</p>	<p>The condition of the material should be monitored at regular intervals.</p> <p>Where practical the material should be labelled.</p> <p>Inform the contractor and any other worker likely to work on, or disturb, the material.</p>
<b>Poor Condition</b>	<b>Asbestos Disturbed</b>
<p>Asbestos in poor condition should be removed.</p>	<p>Asbestos likely to be disturbed should be removed.</p>

**Below is a list of laboratories, contractors and organisations offering advice on asbestos.**

**Inclusion of company on this list IS NOT a recommendation by the council. See Yellow Pages or Thomson Directory's for more companies.**

**Laboratories (registered with the UK Accreditation Service)  
(Check their UKAS accreditation is current telephone: 0208 917 8555)**

Air Surveys (testing only)  
College Mews. St Anns Hill.  
Wandsworth. SW18 2SJ  
(0208 871 4577)

(Lab testing or sample at your home)  
Eurofins Scientific Ltd  
318 Worple Road  
Raynes Park  
(0208 946 8621)

(Lab testing or sample at your home)  
ALcontrol Technichem  
Heathrow West Business Park,  
Heron Drive  
Parlaunt Road,  
Langley  
Slough,  
Berkshire.  
SL3 8XP  
(01753 212540)

**Local Licensed Contractors:** Surveys, sampling, removal contractors **must** be licensed by the Health & Safety Executive) (**Check their license is current** – telephone: 08701 545500)

Abastra Asbestos Removal Service Ltd  
19 Leigham Avenue. Streatham.  
London  
SW16 2PT  
Licence No. 4910303483  
(020 8677 4455)

Arton Ltd  
5/6 The Broadway  
Manor Lane. Sutton. Surrey.  
SM1 4BU  
Licence No. 4970304005  
(0208 643 8821)

Asbestech Ltd  
2 Transport Avenue  
Brentford  
TW8 9HF  
Licence No. 1980204105  
(0208 569 7777)

**Advice on Licensed Contractors and Health & Safety**  
Health & Safety Executive (HSE)      08701 545500

**Asbestos Waste Disposal Site for Richmond Borough**  
West London Waste Site                      0208 841 4546  
Victoria Road  
South Ruislip

**The following organisations may be able to offer further advice on the safe handling of asbestos waste:**

ARCA - Asbestos Removal Contractors Association  
ARCA House  
237 Branston Road  
Burton-on-Trent  
Staffordshire  
DE14 3BT  
Tel: 01283 531126

NSCA - National Society for Clean Air  
136 North Street  
Brighton BN1 1RG  
Tel: 01273 326313