

## SAFE REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF ASBESTOS CEMENT BUILDING PRODUCTS

Within the City of Mandurah many dwellings exist with asbestos cement building products. When removing the asbestos, concerns may be raised on the best way to do this without creating a health risk to those involved or those living in neighbouring properties.

Details on the safe removal of asbestos can be found on the WA Department of Health guide titled "Asbestos Cement Products in Your House", which is available from Environmental Health Services or electronically at –

<http://www.health.wa.gov.au/envirohealth/hazards/asbestos.cfm>

The City's Environmental Health Services often receives questions in relation to the handling of asbestos. The following are some frequently asked questions and answers.

**Q: Am I responsible for the care and maintenance of asbestos cement products at my home?**

*A: YES. As the owner of the property you are to ensure that asbestos is looked after and maintained as to not pose a health risk to yourself and surrounding residents. The City's Environmental Health Officers are not responsible for asbestos on your property however if required are able to provide advise on the general care and maintenance of asbestos material.*

**Q: If we bring a sample of cement sheet in to the City, can it be identified as containing asbestos fibres?**

*A: NO. The City's Environmental Health Officers are not qualified in microscopic examination of products to verify whether or not they contain asbestos. General advice is given based on the age of the product. If the fibrous cement product was in use before 1987 it may contain asbestos. After this date, asbestos was no longer used in building products. Should you have any doubts to whether something does or doesn't contain asbestos, treat with extreme care and take **all** necessary safety precautions when disturbing the product.*

*If you would like a sample identified a list of analytical laboratories can be found in the Yellow Pages.*

**Q: When employing a contractor to remove asbestos – is there a registered list at the City?**

*A: NO. The City of Mandurah have no powers to register asbestos contractors. A WorkSafe Class 3 licenced demolition contractor is required to remove asbestos cement building products when more than 200 square metres of AC roofing material is to be removed a class 3 demolition licence is required.*

*When choosing a contractor it is in your best interests to find out what safety precautions the workers take, including personal protection and site safety. Should you have any concerns surrounding the work procedures of any contractors working within the City of Mandurah, Environmental Health Officers can be contacted to further investigate issues.*

**Q: What happens to asbestos taken to the Waste Transfer Station?**

*A: If you are removing asbestos sheets, ensure they are wrapped in plastic and clearly labelled with “**caution asbestos**”. Remember you **cannot** break or cut the sheets. They can then be taken to the Waste Transfer Station on Gordon Road. As the name suggests this station is a transfer point, all landfill wastes are taken to the Millar Road Landfill Facility, including asbestos. Special “cells” are allotted and the asbestos is disposed of under supervision. The “cells” are lined and prepared to prevent any asbestos entering another part of the landfill site. Please note that any person found re-using, re-selling, or dumping asbestos commits an offence as stated in the Health (Asbestos) Regulations 1992.*

**Q: What are the costs involved if I remove the sheets myself?**

*A: Due to the special disposal requirements for asbestos, charges are imposed for disposing of asbestos sheets.*

**Waste Transfer Station, Gordon Road**

*Maximum of 2 tonne*

<i>Per sheet, or part thereof</i>	<i>\$ 13.00</i>
<i>Per tonne</i>	<i>\$130.00</i>

**Direct to Millar Road Landfill Facility**

*Please call the City of Rockingham on 9528 0333 for the current fees.*

***Other sites that can accept Asbestos waste include the following: -***

*City of Armadale, Hopkinson Road, Armadale  
Phone: 9399 0111*

*City of Cockburn, Rockingham Road, Henderson  
Phone: 9411 3444*

*Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council: Toodyay Road, Redhill  
Phone: 9574 6235*

*Mindarie Regional Council: Tamala Park, Marmion Drive, Mindarie  
Phone: 9305 5246*

*Further information can also be obtained from the Department of Environment and Conservation (Phone 9222 7000).*

Many people decide to undertake asbestos removal themselves. This can be undertaken in some instances and the attached guide has been developed to assist in this regard.

## ASBESTOS MATERIALS SAFE WORK PROCEDURE GUIDE

Read items 1 – 11 and see attached diagrams to ensure safe working procedures when removing asbestos products. The City's Environmental Health Officers will conduct periodic assessments to ensure compliance with these working procedures. Items to be checked off when complied with.

As taken from the *Health (Asbestos) Regulations 1992*; the National Occupational Health & Safety Act & Regulations; the Asbestos: Code of Practice 1988; and enHEALTH guideline for Management of Asbestos in the Non-Occupational Environment.

WORK PROCEDURE	GUIDANCE NOTES	COMPLETED
<p><b>1. <u>ISOLATE WORK AREA</u></b></p> <p>When removing asbestos cement building products the surrounding area should have signs or barriers erected to warn of the danger and prevent unauthorised persons entering.</p>	<p><b>See attached diagram 1A.</b></p> <p><i>Ensure that people in the near vicinity are not exposed to asbestos dust. If there is no risk to people in the vicinity, work should be conducted in the open air or in a well ventilated area.</i></p>	<p>Checked <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Initials _____</p>
<p><b>2. <u>WEAR PERSONAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT</u></b></p> <p>All persons in the asbestos removal area should wear disposable coveralls and either a P1 or P2 respirator or Class L or M disposable mask.</p>	<p><i>This equipment is available from most hardware stores</i></p>	<p>Checked <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Initials _____</p>
<p><b>3. <u>DAMPEN TO MINIMISE FIBRE RELEASE</u></b></p> <p>The asbestos cement sheets should be gently sprayed with a PVA solution or wetted and kept wet during removal.</p>	<p><i>High-pressure water jets are not to be used It is recommended that a manually controlled low-pressure coarse spray garden hose be used.</i></p>	<p>Checked <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Initials _____</p>

<p><b>4. <u>USE HAND TOOLS</u></b> No power tools should be used, with the exception of removing screws.</p>	<p><i>Non powered hand tools or portable power tools that incorporate dust suppression or dust extraction attachments designed to collect asbestos fibres are allowed.</i></p>	<p>Checked <input type="checkbox"/> Initials _____</p>
<p><b>5. <u>AVOID BREAKAGE</u></b> Asbestos sheets should be handled and removed with minimal breakage and should be lowered to the ground, not dropped.</p>	<p><i>Handling asbestos with care will reduce the chance of releasing fibres</i></p>	<p>Checked <input type="checkbox"/> Initials _____</p>
<p><b>6. <u>AVOID ABRASION OF ASBESTOS MATERIAL</u></b> When stacking the removed sheets care should be taken not to skid one sheet over the surface of another as this action will result in scuffing and the release of fibres.</p>		<p>Checked <input type="checkbox"/> Initials _____</p>
<p><b>7. <u>CLEAN GUTTERS</u></b> Roof gutters are to be cleaned or sealed prior to their removal.</p>	<p><i>Take care if walking on asbestos roof, it can be highly dangerous if the roof has undergone specific weathering or is wet.</i></p>	<p>Checked <input type="checkbox"/> Initials _____</p>
<p><b>8. <u>USE AN APPROVED VACUUM OR WET CLEANING</u></b> Any asbestos cement residue remaining in the roof space or removal area is to be cleaned up, using an approved vacuum cleaner if necessary.</p>	<p><i>Vacuum cleaning equipment designed to collect asbestos fibres containing a HEPA filter can be used.</i></p> <p><i>The area can also be wetted down and swept, to contain asbestos materials.</i></p> <p><i>Do not dry sweep dust.</i></p>	<p>Checked <input type="checkbox"/> Initials _____</p>

<p><b>9. <u>WRAP WASTE IN PLASTIC</u></b></p> <p>The removed sheets are to be kept stacked on polythene sheeting, wrapped and sealed into appropriate bundles for disposal; or placed directly into disposal bins that have been lined with polythene sheeting and sealed for removal.</p> <p><b>Used disposable coveralls and masks are to be placed in bags for removal with asbestos waste.</b></p>	<p><i>Solid asbestos waste is to be collected in polythene sheeting &gt;0.2mm thick.</i></p> <p><i>Where bags are used, a maximum bag size of 1200mm x 900mm is recommended, fill bags to 50% capacity. It is advised that waste be double bagged.</i></p>	<p>Checked <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Initials _____</p> <p>Checked <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Initials _____</p> <p>Checked <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Initials _____</p>
<p><b>10. <u>KEEP SITE TIDY</u></b></p> <p>Sheets should not be left lying about the site where they may be further broken or crushed by machinery or site traffic.</p>	<p><i>All waste containing asbestos is to be kept wet, wrapped in polythene or otherwise sealed and removed from site as soon as practicable.</i></p>	<p>Checked <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Initials _____</p>
<p><b>11. <u>DISPOSE OF WASTE SAFELY</u></b></p> <p>All wastes containing asbestos is to be disposed of at an approved site in accordance with the <i>Health (Asbestos) Regulations 1992</i>.</p>	<p><i>See <b>diagram 1B</b> for recommended label for bags/containers containing asbestos cement products.</i></p> <p><i>See attached appendix 1 for sites of disposal and contact information.</i></p>	<p>Checked <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Initials _____</p>

WARNING SIGNS

Diagram 1A

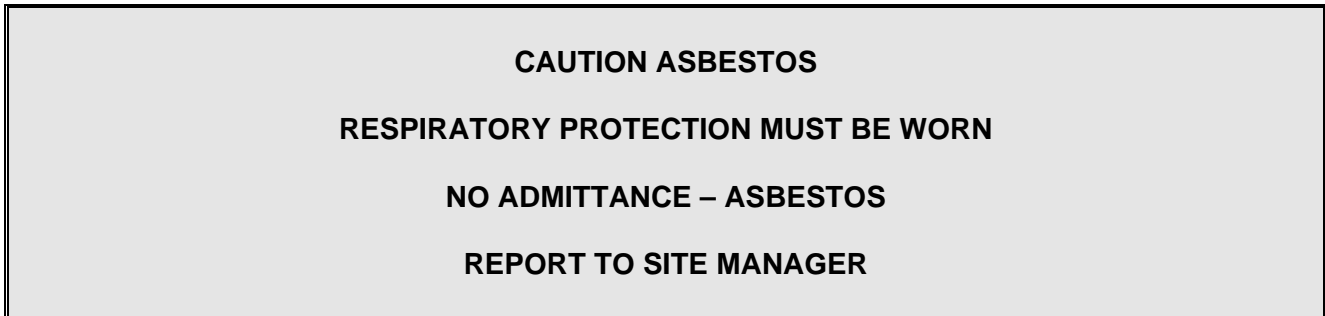


Diagram 1B

