

**LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON**

Adult Services Health and Housing  
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**GUIDANCE NOTE No GN.PH25**

**NEEDS AND RENEWAL  
ASBESTOS GUIDANCE NOTE**

**INTRODUCTION**

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral which is extracted and processed with other materials and has found extensive use in building construction and specialised uses. Its properties of resistance to fire, alkali and acid led to its wide usage up to the early 1970s. In recognition of its potentially hazardous nature some types have already been banned from usage and there are substitute materials now available.

**USES OF ASBESTOS**

1. Asbestos Cement: typically shed or corrugated garage roof, roofing tiles, eaves, gutters, water tanks.
2. Soft Asbestos: typically pipe or boiler lagging.
3. Insulation Board: fire-proof cladding, thermal insulation board, acoustic panels.
4. Sprayed Coatings: typically found on soffits to communal walk-ways in blocks of flats and underground car parks for fire protection.
5. Miscellaneous: ironing boards, brake pads, textured paints, floor tiles, certain types of calor gas portable heaters manufactured before 1976.

## **WHAT ARE THE HAZARDS?**

The mere physical presence of Asbestos does not necessarily create a health risk. The risk arises from the breathing in of microscopic Asbestos fibres released through mishandling or in areas where it is subject to heavy wear.

## **ACTION TO BE TAKEN**

If Asbestos material is in good order and repair - leave alone! In attempting to remove it you are likely to create the potentially hazardous dust. You are recommended to use the following remedies.

1. Seal and paint - prime Asbestos sheet with ALKALI RESISTANT PRIMER. Finish off with emulsion or gloss paint. Do not abrade prior to painting.
2. Cover over sheet Asbestos with wallpaper fixed with a strong adhesive or cover over with hardboard.
3. Seal and paint with a bitumastic paint, e.g. Aquaseal or "Synthaprufe".
4. Seal with a PVA adhesive, e.g. "Unibond".

## **DO NOT ATTEMPT REMOVAL OF:**

- (a) soft Asbestos
- (b) Asbestos insulating board (similar to plaster board)
- (c) sprayed Asbestos coating.

The above should be dealt with by a professional stripping company licensed by the Health and Safety Executive. Contact the Health and Safety Executive for details of specialist approved contractors. The work has to be undertaken in accordance with a strict code of practice involving use of specialised equipment and protective clothing.

## **REMOVAL OF SHEET ASBESTOS (E.G. CORRUGATED SHED OR GARAGE ROOF)**

Removal of Asbestos cement products which normally comprise 10-15% Asbestos content can be undertaken by the householder provided that the following precautions are observed:

1. Avoid breaking up into small pieces, i.e. no hammers or dropping from heights into refuse skips.
2. Use hand tools only.
3. Do not use power tools.
4. Undo fixing bolts, screws, etc., and remove panels complete.

5. Thoroughly soak the material before starting work. You are advised to introduce a suitable wetting agent, e.g. washing-up liquid, into the water before saturation.
6. Stack the removed sheets in the open and cover over with plastic sheet. Small pieces should be soaked and swept (no vacuum cleaning) into stout plastic sacks and then sealed.
7. Always work in well ventilated areas.
8. Persons handling Asbestos should wear washable over-clothing and should thoroughly wash exposed skin on completion of work. If removal is difficult, necessitating breaking up Asbestos or large amounts are involved, you are advised to hire from a reputable hire shop (see internet sites or the Yellow Pages, or similar telephone directory) a suitable dust mask specified for Asbestos dust.

### **DISPOSAL OF ASBESTOS**

Do not put Asbestos waste into the dustbin or take it to Local Authority Civic Amenities Depots. There are special arrangements for the disposal of Asbestos waste.

You are advised to contact the Corporation of London - Hazardous Waste Collection and Disposal Service telephone number:

020 7332 3433

The Hazardous Waste Collection and Disposal Service provide a limited service – they will collect up to 11.5 square metres free of charge (but this must be easily collectable, e.g. in bags – customer should ask for advice on this). Quantities above 11.5 square metres will be chargeable.

If you have more than 11.5 square metres the above quantity for disposal please ring the Hazardous Waste Collection and Disposal Service on their number above for further information.

### **DUMPED ASBESTOS**

If you see what may be Asbestos dumped anywhere in the Borough, the council may not be able to take action and the Health and Safety Executive may be able to offer advice. The material may not be asbestos. If the material is not being touched or moved, if it is contained to an area or damp, it poses minimal risk.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

If you have any queries or require further information, please telephone us (Monday – Friday 8.30 a.m. – 4.45 p.m.) on 020 8760-5423.