

Removal of Asbestos

Asbestos in Buildings

Left undisturbed in buildings, asbestos cement building products DO NOT generally present a risk to health. Existing asbestos building products do not need to be removed or coated if in good condition. Any home built prior to 1988 is likely to have asbestos materials, if you are thinking of renovating, you must think asbestos. It is important to be aware of potential asbestos around the home or workplace and if in doubt consult with a licenced professional.

What you can't do

- It is an offence to use high-pressure equipment to clean materials that contain asbestos. This includes compressed air or high-pressure water jets.
- It is an offence to sell, swap, give away or supply second hand asbestos cement sheeting.
- It is an offence to use power tools other than those which incorporate dust suppression or extraction attachments designed to collect asbestos fibres.
- Waste materials containing asbestos must be disposed of in accordance with the Environmental Protection (Controlled Waste) Regulations 2004.

Asbestos Removal

Removing asbestos safely can be a complicated process, for this reason it is best carried out by licensed professionals who have completed relevant training. Before enlisting a licenced operator to remove asbestos make sure you ask to see a copy of their licence.

There are necessary precautions you need to take to ensure your safety and the safety of others within the home. Below are some general guidelines, before starting any job please consult with Worksafe WA, the Health (Asbestos) Regulations 1992, Department of Health and the Shire for further information.

- Personal protective equipment including disposable overalls and approved masks must be worn during the removal. When finished these are to be placed in bags for removal with other asbestos waste.
- All asbestos should be wet and kept damp during the removal or sprayed with a PVA (Poly vinyl acetate) solution during the removal process. Care should be taken on roofs because asbestos cement sheets are brittle and slippery when wet.

A photograph of a white lighthouse on a grassy hill overlooking the ocean under a clear sky.

Shire of Exmouth INFORMATION

- Non powered hand tools or portable power tools incorporating dust suppression or dust extraction attachments designed to collect asbestos fibres must be used.
- Asbestos sheets should be removed with minimal breakages and should be lowered to the ground, not dropped.
- Asbestos sheets must not be left lying about where they may be further crushed or broken.
- When stacking removed sheets, take care not to skid one sheet over another. This will prevent the release of fibres.
- Visible asbestos cement residue in the removal area is to be cleaned up using an approved vacuum cleaner.
- Waste containing asbestos must be kept wet, wrapped in polythene and sealed then removed from the site as soon as possible.

NOTE: The above procedures should be read in conjunction with the Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984, Health (Asbestos) Regulations 1992, the Code of Practice for the Safe Removal of Asbestos 2nd Edition by Safe Work Australia, the Department of Health and Worksafe WA.

Disposal of Asbestos

Shire of Exmouth Qualing Scarp Landfill Site

Asbestos is classified by the Department of Environment as a Type 1 Special Waste and must be disposed of under strict conditions and at a facility approved to accept these wastes. The Environmental Protection (Controlled Waste) Regulations 2004 has strict requirements on the acceptance of asbestos at the Shire of Exmouth Landfill Site.

To satisfy the requirements of the above regulations and to ensure safe unloading at the landfill site the asbestos:

- Must be separate from other material for disposal.
- Double wrapped in heavy duty plastic (available from most hardware stores) and sealed with adhesive tape to prevent asbestos fibres from being released. No more than three sheets per bundle if being unloaded by hand or if being unloaded by a forklift, in bundles of no more than 30 sheets placed on wood cleats or pallets. Approved bulk bags can be used as well.
- Labelled with the words "CAUTION ASBESTOS" in letters not less than 40mm high.

If the asbestos fails to comply with the above we can't accept the load and you will be turned away.

Asbestos is accepted by appointment only 10am to 3pm Monday to Thursday. It will not be accepted outside these timeframes. This is to ensure that there is enough staff available and they make preparations to have the correct equipment needed to off load the asbestos.

To make a booking ring 0429 355 495 at least 24 hours in advance. You will need to supply your name, address, contact phone number, date and approximately how much asbestos you have.

If you are running late for your appointment please ring tip staff. When at the site you will be directed to a specified tipping area and you are required to follow all instructions by tip staff.

Fees apply when disposing of waste please enquire about the cost when making your appointment or by contacting 9949 3000 and ask for the Environmental Health Officer.