



Offices: 102 North Road
Postal Address: PO Box 484, ALBANY WA 6331
Phone: (08) 9841 9333
Fax: (08) 9841 4099
Email: staff@albany.wa.gov.au
Synergy Reference No: NIS06615

HEALTH (ASBESTOS) REGULATIONS 1992

ASBESTOS REMOVAL

Left undisturbed in buildings, asbestos cement building products pose little risk to health. As such there is no need to remove or to coat asbestos cement materials that are in good condition. All asbestos cement products can be removed safely without presenting a risk to the public or workers provided safe work procedures are followed.

Persons removing asbestos cement products must comply with the *Health (Asbestos) Regulations 1992*, the *Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996* and *Environmental Protection (Controlled Waste) Regulations 2004* as outlined in this fact sheet.

Safe work Procedures for the Removal of Asbestos

1. Asbestos cement sheets should be kept wet with water during removal or sprayed with a PVA (poly vinyl acetate) solution.
2. Use only non-powered hand tools or portable power tools incorporating dust suppression or dust extraction attachments designed to collect asbestos fibres.
3. Care must be taken when removing asbestos cement products to ensure minimal breakage. Roofing materials are to be lowered to the ground, not dropped.
4. Removed sheets are to be stacked on polythene sheeting, then wrapped and sealed into bundles for disposal, or placed directly into disposal bins that have been lined with polythene sheeting, and sealed for disposal.
5. Sheets must not be left lying about where they may be further broken or crushed.
6. When stacking removed sheets care must be taken not to skid one sheet over another as this will result in the release of fibres.
7. Roof gutters must be cleaned or sealed prior to their removal.
8. Any visible asbestos cement residue remaining in the roof space or within the removal area is to be cleaned up using an approved vacuum cleaner if necessary.
9. All waste containing asbestos is to be kept wet, wrapped in polythene or otherwise sealed and removed from the site as soon as practicable.

Demolition Sites

In addition to above information, those working on demolition sites should comply with the following details.

1. If removing asbestos cement building products from a demolition site the surrounding area should have signs and a barrier erected to warn of the danger and prevent unauthorised people entering.
2. All people in asbestos cement removal areas should wear disposable coveralls and either a P1 or P2 disposable mask that complies with Australian Standard 1716:1994 (obtainable from your local hardware shop). Used disposable coveralls and masks are to be placed in the bags for removal with other asbestos waste.
3. All inquiries relating to demolition sites should be directed to The City's Building Department on **9841 9333** or to WorkSafe on 9842 8366.

Disposal to Landfill Sites

Within the Albany area, asbestos cement waste must be disposed of in accordance with the requirements of the *Environmental Protection (Controlled Waste) Regulations 2004* as detailed below.

- Material containing asbestos must be separated from all other waste.
- Wrapped in plastic to prevent asbestos fibres entering the atmosphere during transportation by road.
- Clearly labelled and marked "CAUTION ASBESTOS" at least 5cm high.
- Only disposal sites licensed by the Department of Environmental Protection for asbestos removal may be used. The Bakers Junction refuse site in Albany is licensed for this purpose.

Under the *Environmental Protection (Controlled Waste) Regulation 2004*, permits are **NOT** required for the off-site removal, transportation or disposal of material containing asbestos.

Prohibitions

- The use of high-pressure equipment to clean materials that contain asbestos is strictly prohibited. This includes the use of compressed air or high-pressure water jets.
- It is an offence to sell, swap, give away or supply second hand asbestos cement sheeting.

**** DISCLAIMER ****

This information sheet is a guide only. Verification with original Local Laws, Acts, Planning Schemes, and other relevant documents is recommended for detailed references. The City of Albany accepts no responsibility for errors or omissions.