



Asbestos Awareness Ambassador, Trevor Gillmeister

Asbestos warning sticker

If the home was built before 1990, place this sticker where tradespeople or the owners will see it – on the electrical switchboard, in the meter box or in a kitchen cabinet.

You may be able to stop others from accidentally disturbing asbestos and exposing themselves or their families to the fibres.



Common locations where asbestos is found



Super Six roof sheeting and guttering



Slotted Hardiflex soffit sheeting



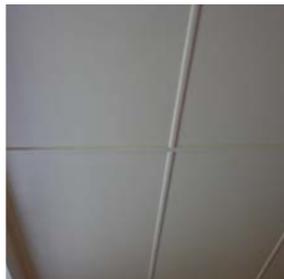
Asbestos guttering



Woven Hardiplank fence



Imitation brick cladding



Internal wall/ceiling sheets



Sheet vinyl floor covering



Tilux splashback

Asbestos and home renovations

Home renovators and tradies

1. Are you aware of the risks?
2. Can you safely contain asbestos fibres during the job?
3. Can you protect yourself, your family or your customers during the job?
4. Can you safely decontaminate the area after the job?
5. How will you dispose of asbestos waste?



Contact us

For more information visit

[qld.gov.au/asbestos](https://www.qld.gov.au/asbestos)

or call

13 QGOV (13 74 68).

Your local council can provide information about accepting asbestos waste and any costs involved.

Play it safe with asbestos —
Don't risk exposing yourself or others to airborne fibres during your renovation.

Does my home contain asbestos?

As a general rule, if your home was built before 1990, it is likely to contain some asbestos materials. Asbestos was used in more than 3000 products and is estimated to be in one-third of homes across Australia.

Most building materials that contain asbestos in a domestic home are safe if they are in good condition, sealed and left alone.

Asbestos materials can be found on the inside and outside of homes.

Inside, asbestos cement wall sheeting could be painted, wallpapered or tiled. Some sheet vinyl flooring types may have an asbestos backing or there could be products such as Tilux used in the bathroom.

Outside, asbestos materials were often used in various profiles as wall cladding, under eaves or as corrugated Super Six roof sheeting. Asbestos was also used in vent pipes and the surrounds of disconnecter traps, or even the backing board to an electrical switchboard.

Will I do my own renovation or get a licensed professional to help?

If more than 10 m² of non-friable asbestos is to be removed, you must use a licensed asbestos removalist or obtain a certificate yourself from the Department of Health.

If less than 10 m² of non-friable asbestos is to be removed or disturbed, you don't need a licence, but you still need to take precautions to avoid exposure to asbestos fibres.

Non-friable asbestos products are rigid and the fibres are tightly bound together in a substance, such as cement. A common non-friable asbestos product is fibro, also known as asbestos cement or AC sheeting.

Friable asbestos products are loosely bound together and can easily crumble under hand pressure. They are only to be removed by a licensed Class A asbestos removalist. A common friable asbestos product is found in the backing to some sheet vinyl floor coverings.

Before starting any renovation work, ask yourself or your tradesperson these questions:

1. Can you avoid disturbing asbestos materials?

If an asbestos material is in good condition and sealed, you may not need to disturb it. If you need to paint it, you then prepare the surface first. Always wet the surface down before lightly hand sanding and never use power sanders.

2. Who will do your job?

Never assume a tradesperson can identify asbestos materials. If you are not sure, assume the product contains asbestos or have it tested at an accredited laboratory.

If you or a tradesperson need to disturb asbestos, such as drilling a hole into an asbestos sheet, make sure it is done safely to avoid asbestos fibres becoming airborne.

If asbestos is to be removed it's always best to get three quotes and consider the one that will do the work safely. Check online at qld.gov.au/asbestos to ensure the removalist is licensed to remove asbestos and ask about previous jobs they have done.

3. How will asbestos fibres be contained?

Home renovators and tradespeople are legally obliged to protect the health of others by not allowing asbestos fibres to become airborne during their work and not leaving any asbestos dust or debris at the end. Before disturbing any asbestos materials:

- prevent other people from entering the work area
- clear the room of furniture, take down curtains or blinds and cover the floor (especially carpet) with layers of thick plastic to prevent asbestos fibres from settling on them.
- anyone doing work should wear a P2 respirator, disposable coveralls with a hood and boot covers to safely protect themselves

- only use manually operated hand tools or low-speed battery powered tools (below 650 rpm) together with a dust control method (e.g. wet methods using foams or gels). Never use power tools (including power saws, drills, sanders and angle grinders) unless correctly fitted with an on-tool local extraction ventilation, connected to an industrial rated H class vacuum cleaner (see label). Never use compressed air or high-pressure water blasters on asbestos materials.

- wet-wipe surfaces near the work area to capture any loose asbestos fibres or use an industrial rated H class vacuum (see label). Never use a household vacuum cleaner, even if it has a HEPA filter, as it will spread fibres further.

- carefully wrap and double-bag any asbestos waste, wipes and disposable protective items.



4. How will you dispose of asbestos waste?

Contact your local council to see if they accept asbestos waste. There are weight limitations for transporting asbestos and it must be correctly labelled and contained within thick plastic. An alternative is to engage an approved waste contractor with authority to take it away for you.



Examples of asbestos dust control measures