Repairing damaged asbestos cement (AC)

What this sheet covers
This sheet describes good practice when you need to repair damaged AC. For badly damaged AC, see sheet a14 or sheet a15.

This sheet is not appropriate for repairs to asbestos insulating board – see sheet a6.

Preparing the work area
- Ensure safe access.
- Restrict access – minimise the number of people present.
- Close doors. Use tape and notices to warn others.
- Ensure adequate lighting.

Equipment
- 500-gauge polythene sheeting and duct tape
- Warning tape and notices
- Mastic or sealant for gaps
- Garden-type sprayer containing wetting agent
- Bucket of water and rags
- Asbestos waste bag
- Clear polythene bag

Personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Provide:
  - disposable overalls fitted with a hood;
  - boots without laces (laced boots are hard to decontaminate).
- A respirator is not normally required.

Procedure
- Protect nearby surfaces from contamination. Cover with 500-gauge polythene sheeting and fix with duct tape to non-asbestos surfaces.
- Clean up debris and loose material – see sheet a11.
- Paint the damaged area – see sheet a16.
Paint or cover the damaged area, see a8 and a16

Cleaning and disposal
- Clean the equipment and the area with damp rags.
- Put debris, used rags, polythene sheeting and other waste in the asbestos waste bag and tape it closed.
- Put the asbestos waste bag in a clear polythene bag and tape it closed.
- Disposal – see sheet em9.

Personal decontamination
See sheet em8.

Clearance and checking off
- Visually inspect the area to make sure that it has been cleaned properly.
- Clearance air sampling is not normally required.
- Get the premises owner, dutyholder or client to check off the job.

For information about health and safety, or to report inconsistencies or inaccuracies in this guidance, visit www.hse.gov.uk/
You can view HSE guidance online and order priced publications from the website. HSE priced publications are also available from bookshops.

This guidance is issued by the Health and Safety Executive. Following the guidance is not compulsory, unless specifically stated, and you are free to take other action. But if you do follow the guidance you will normally be doing enough to comply with the law. Health and safety inspectors seek to secure compliance with the law and may refer to this guidance.

This document is available at: www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/essentials/
© Crown copyright If you wish to reuse this information visit www.hse.gov.uk/copyright.htm for details.
First published as part of Asbestos essentials task manual 2001.
Published by the Health and Safety Executive 09/17