Painting asbestos cement (AC) products

What this sheet covers
This sheet describes good practice when you need to paint an AC product that is in good condition.

Caution: If done wrongly, painting can result in the product failing.
To protect from impact damage, see sheet a8.

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
- Low-solvent paint
- Low-pressure sprayer, or brush or roller
- 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
- Check the asbestos cement surface before starting work.
- Repair damage – see sheet a13.
- Protect nearby surfaces from contamination. Cover with 500-gauge polythene sheeting and fix with duct tape to non-asbestos surfaces.

Non-licensed tasks

Important: You must read sheet a0 Introduction to asbestos essentials
Also read the following sheets:
- em0 Risk assessments and plans of work
- em1 What to do if you discover or accidentally disturb asbestos during your work
- em2 Information, instruction and training
- em5 Wetting asbestos materials
- em6 Personal protective equipment (including RPE)
- em7 Using damp rags to clean surfaces of minor asbestos contamination
- em8 Personal decontamination
- em9 Disposal of asbestos waste
Other hazards

Work at height – see www.hse.gov.uk/work-at-height. Take precautions to avoid falls.

There may be other hazards – you need to consider them all.

Caution

Never prepare surfaces by sanding or rubbing down.

Use low-pressure spraying

- Wipe dusty surfaces with a damp rag.
- Apply the paint, preferably by low-pressure spraying.
- Spray using a sweeping motion.
- If painting by brush or roller, do so gently and avoid concentrating on one area to reduce surface damage.

Cleaning and disposal

- Clean the equipment and the area with damp rags.
- Put debris, used rags, polythene sheeting, paintbrush or roller 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.