

a17

asbestos essentials

Non-licensed tasks

Essential information

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

Removing asbestos paper linings

What this sheet covers

This sheet describes good practice when you need to remove asbestos paper linings (eg from a boiler casing, beneath lino, or where asbestos paper separates easily from other materials).

Due to the deterioration of the paper linings during removal the work will be notifiable non-licensed work (NNLW) – see sheet a0 *Introduction to asbestos essentials*.

This sheet is not appropriate for removing asbestos paper lagging. Use an HSE-licensed contractor for such work.

Preparing the work area

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



Asbestos paper linings can be found in boiler casings, under lino or tiles and many other places



Paper gaskets can contain asbestos

Other hazards

Electrical hazards– see www.hse.gov.uk/electricity. Get a competent electrician to isolate and reconnect electricity supply.

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

Equipment

- 500-gauge polythene sheeting and duct tape
- Warning tape and notices
- Permanent sealant
- Sharp knife
- Garden-type sprayer containing wetting agent
- Paint brush
- Bucket of water and rags
- Asbestos waste bag
- Clear polythene bag

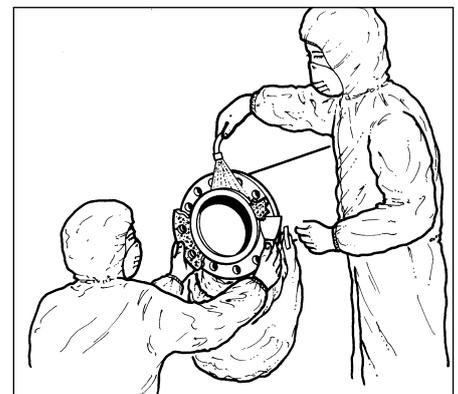
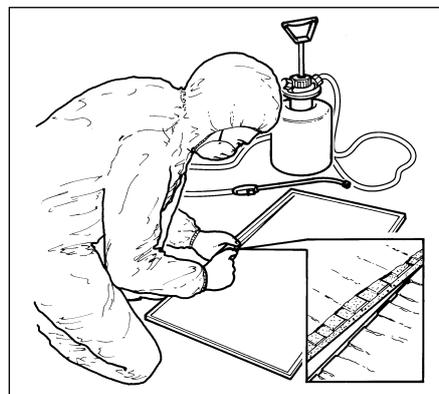
Personal protective equipment (PPE) – see sheet em6

- Provide:
 - disposable overalls fitted with a hood;
 - boots without laces (laced boots are hard to decontaminate);
 - respiratory protective equipment (RPE).



Procedure

- Isolate the power supply – use a competent electrician.
- Only work on a boiler that is cold.
- Protect nearby surfaces from contamination. Cover with 500-gauge polythene sheeting and fix with duct tape to non-asbestos surfaces.



If you can't remove the paper whole, cut it – don't tear – and dampen it as you go

Removal

- Carefully remove the covering – dismantle metal covers on a boiler; ease back lino etc.
- Protect vulnerable parts with polythene sheeting, fixed with tape to a non-asbestos surface.
- Dampen the exposed paper.
- If possible, remove the paper whole. Otherwise, cut the paper – don't tear it – and dampen as you remove it.

- Put the paper in the waste container.
- Brush any paper you can't remove with sealant.
- Brush the back surface of other material, eg lino, with sealant before disposal.

Cleaning and disposal

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

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