Removing asbestos friction linings

What this sheet covers
This sheet describes good practice when you need to remove a friction lining containing asbestos (e.g., brake assembly, clutch housing) or when the housing needs cleaning.

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

Equipment
- 500-gauge polythene sheeting and duct tape
- Warning tape and notices
- Class H vacuum cleaner (BS 8520) (if available – see sheet em4)
- Scraper
- 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
- Protect nearby surfaces from contamination. Cover with 500-gauge polythene sheeting and fix with duct tape to non-asbestos surfaces.
Removal
- Partially open the housing and vacuum the inside.
- Open the housing carefully. Use damp rags to clean inside.
- Put the worn friction lining and dirty rags in the waste bag.
- Scrape off any residues using ‘shadow vacuuming’ – see sheet em4.

Cleaning and disposal
- Clean the equipment and the area with Class H vacuum (if available) and/or 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.

Caution
Never use a brush or compressed air for cleaning.

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

Disc brake on a vehicle