

a19

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

em7 Using damp rags to clean surfaces of minor asbestos contamination

em8 Personal decontamination

em9 Disposal of asbestos waste

Removing an asbestos fire blanket

What this sheet covers

This sheet describes good practice when you need to remove an asbestos fire blanket, or replace it with a non-asbestos blanket.

Preparing the work area

- Restrict access – minimise the number of people present.
- Ensure adequate lighting.

Equipment

- Suitable non-asbestos replacement fire blanket
- 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

Removal

- Where the blanket and container are no longer needed, unscrew the box from the wall and put it, with the blanket inside, into the waste container.
- For a blanket in a box with opening base, open the front and dampen with spray.
- Slide the blanket into the asbestos waste bag.
- For a blanket in a circular cylinder, first dampen the blanket. Spray up into the container.
- Avoid over-wetting and creating a pool of water.
- Pull the blanket out, into the asbestos waste bag.

Caution

Never unravel or shake an asbestos fire blanket.

Other hazards

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



Open the front, dampen, and slide the blanket into the asbestos waste bag

Cleaning and disposal

- Clean inside any container that remains, with damp rags.
- Clean the floor beneath the container with damp rags.
- Put used rags 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 inside the container and the floor beneath it to make sure that these have 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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