

a22

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 metal cladding lined with asbestos-containing bitumen

What this sheet covers

This sheet describes good practice when you need to remove metal cladding lined with asbestos-containing bitumen (eg 'Galbestos').

This sheet is not appropriate for work with asbestos-containing bitumen products (eg roofing felt, damp-proof course) – see sheet **a21**.

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- and 1000-gauge polythene sheeting and duct tape
- Warning tape and notices
- Bolt cutter
- Hammer
- Chisel
- Garden-type sprayer containing wetting agent
- Bucket of water and rags
- Asbestos waste bag
- Clear polythene bag
- Lockable skip for larger quantities of waste
- Asbestos warning stickers

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.



Caution

It is dangerous to seal over exhaust vents from gas-fired equipment. Can the equipment be turned off?

Other hazards

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

Slips and trips – see www.hse.gov.uk/slips. Floors protected with polythene become very slippery when wet.

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

Procedure

- Protect nearby surfaces from contamination. Cover with 500-gauge polythene sheeting and fix with duct tape to non-asbestos surfaces.

Removal

- Carefully remove fixtures such as pipework.
- If the sheets are screwed in place, knock off the screw heads with the hammer and chisel.
- If the sheets are bolted in place, cut the bolts while avoiding contact with the asbestos-containing bitumen. Remove the bolts carefully.
- Pull the sheet away from its fastenings, dampening exposed surfaces.
- Lower sheets to the ground – do not use a rubble chute.
- Put small items and debris in the asbestos waste bag.
- Double-wrap cladding pieces in 1000-gauge polythene sheeting.
- Attach asbestos warning stickers.
- Where there are several sheets of cladding, place them in a lockable skip.

Cleaning and disposal

- Clean the equipment and the area with damp rags.
- Check for debris in screw or bolt holes. Clean 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.

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