

a24

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 (PPE)

em7 Using damp rags to clean surfaces of minor asbestos contamination

em8 Personal decontamination

em9 Disposal of asbestos waste

Removing flexible asbestos textile duct connectors (gaiters)

What this sheet covers

This sheet describes good practice when you need to remove a gaiter (flexible asbestos textile connector) from metal ductwork sections or from the joint with a fan.

This sheet applies where the gaiter is riveted to the metal frame, and where it is clipped in place over the ducting.

This sheet is *not* appropriate if adjacent ducting is lagged with asbestos. Use an HSE-licensed contractor for such work.

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

- Warning tape and notices
- Drill – manual or powered, set at the lowest speed
- Screwdriver
- Scraper
- Garden-type sprayer containing wetting agent
- Bucket of water and rags
- Asbestos waste bag
- Clear polythene bag

Other hazards

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

Manual handling – see www.hse.gov.uk/msd. Plan how to remove and handle heavy material and articles safely.

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



Connectors may be clipped or riveted

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

- Turn off and lock off the system.

Method 1: Riveted flexible gaiters (duct connectors)

- Where possible, unbolt the assembly holding the connector and remove it whole.
- Otherwise, dampen the gaiter and drill out the rivets, avoiding the gaiter material.
- Ease the metal plate away. Dampen the gaiter's inner surface.
- Remove the gaiter and place it in the asbestos waste bag.
- Dampen any debris adhering, and carefully scrape it into the asbestos waste bag.

Method 2: Clipped flexible gaiters (duct connectors)

- Dampen the gaiter.
- Remove the clips holding the gaiter in place.
- Slide the gaiter off the ducting and put it in the waste bag.
- Wipe the clips with damp rags.

Cleaning and disposal

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