

a26

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

em4 Using a Class H vacuum cleaner for asbestos

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

Drilling and boring through textured coatings

What this sheet covers

This sheet describes good practice when you need to drill through textured coating.

If the coating is on asbestos insulating board, see sheet a1.

Preparing the work area

- Restrict access – minimise the number of people present.
- Close doors. 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) for cleaning (if available – see sheet em4)
- Drill – manual or powered, set at the lowest speed
- Drill bit, or hole cutter for holes greater than 20 mm diameter
- Thick paste, eg wallpaper paste or shaving foam, or a drill cowl to contain drilling debris
- Permanent sealant
- Paint brush
- Bucket of water and rags
- Asbestos waste bag
- Clear polythene bag



Textured coating is common on ceilings

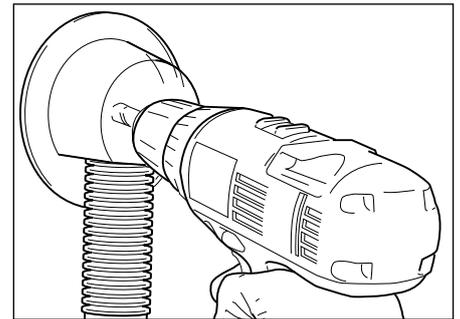
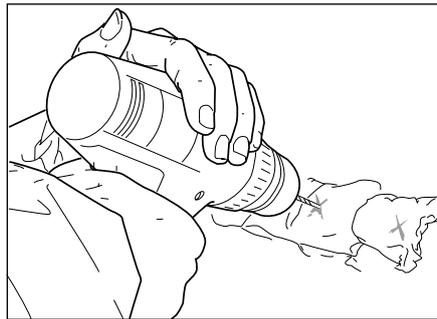
Other hazards

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

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



Drill through paste or foam or use a plastic cowl with a Class H vacuum cleaner (if available)



A hand drill creates less dust. If you have to use an electric drill, put it on the slowest setting

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

- Remove furniture and fittings from the area, or protect them from contamination using 500-gauge polythene sheet.
- Protect nearby surfaces from contamination. Cover with 500-gauge polythene sheeting and fix with duct tape to non-asbestos surfaces.
- For cable and pipework, make the hole slightly bigger than required.

Drilling and boring

- Cover the drill entry and, if accessible, exit points with a generous amount of paste, foam or a drill cowl.
- Drill through the paste, foam or drill cowl.
- Clean off the paste, foam and debris with damp rags, or remove the device and clean the surface. Clean the back surface with damp rags, if accessible.
- Rags and paste or foam contain dust and fibres. Dispose of as asbestos waste.
- Seal the drilled edge with sealant.

Cleaning and disposal

- Clean the area and equipment with the Class H vacuum cleaner (if available) and/or damp rags.
- Put debris, used rags, paint brush, 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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