Inserting and removing screws through textured coatings

What this sheet covers
This sheet describes good practice when you need to insert and remove screws through textured coating.

If the coating is on asbestos insulating board, see sheet a4.

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) (if available – see sheet em4)
- Permanent sealant
- Magnet
- Screwdriver
- Paint brush
- 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).
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.

Procedure

- Can you use strong adhesive instead of screws?
- 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.

Inserting screw

- Paint sealant around the hole and fix the screw.

Removing screw

- Locate steel screws with the magnet. Locate brass screws by careful paint scraping.
- Use ‘shadow vacuuming’ (if Class H vacuum available) to control dust – see sheet em4.
- Unscrew – put the screws in the waste bag.
- Paint sealant around the hole.

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.