

# a27

## 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

# 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](http://www.hse.gov.uk/work-at-height). Take precautions to avoid falls.

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



a26 tells you how to drill through textured coating



Paint sealant around the hole before you insert the screw. Use shadow vacuuming (if Class H vacuum available) to control dust when removing screws



## 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

- Hole drilling – see sheet a26.
- 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.

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