Clearing up debris following collapse of a ceiling or wall covered with textured coating

What this sheet covers
This sheet describes good practice when you need to clear up wall or ceiling debris with a textured coating.

This sheet does not apply to the removal or renovation of remaining coatings.

It is not appropriate if the coating covers asbestos insulating board. Use an HSE-licensed contractor for such work.

Preparing the work area
- Ensure that the area is safe to enter.
- Do you need to isolate any services?
- Restrict access – minimise the number of people present.
- Ensure adequate lighting.

Equipment
- Warning tape and notices
- Class H vacuum cleaner (BS 8520) – see sheet em4
- Scoop or trowel
- Shovel
- Bucket of water and rags
- Asbestos waste bag
- Clear polythene bag
- Lockable skip for larger quantities of waste

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

Plan how to remove and handle heavy material and articles safely.

Electrical hazards – see www.hse.gov.uk/electricity.
Get a competent electrician to isolate and reconnect electricity supply.

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

Procedure

- Shovel or scoop smaller pieces into the asbestos waste bag.
- Put larger amounts in the lockable skip.

Cleaning and disposal

- Clean contaminated furniture and furnishings with the Class H vacuum cleaner.
- Wrap cleaned furniture in polythene sheeting. Remove cleaned furnishings.
- Dispose of any contaminated furniture or furnishings that cannot be cleaned.
- Clean the equipment and the area 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.

Other hazards

Plan how to remove and handle heavy material and articles safely.

Electrical hazards – see www.hse.gov.uk/electricity.
Get a competent electrician to isolate and reconnect electricity supply.

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

Old lath and plaster ceilings are often covered in textured coating to hide imperfections

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