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.
- A two-stage airlock is not required.
- 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 container, eg labelled polythene sack
- Lockable skip for larger quantities of waste
- Clear polythene sack

Personal protective equipment (PPE) – see sheet em6

Provide:
- disposable overalls fitted with a hood;
- boots without laces (laced boots are hard to decontaminate); and
- respiratory protective equipment.

Procedure

- Shovel or scoop smaller pieces into the asbestos waste container.
- 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 container and tape it closed.
Put the asbestos waste container in a clear polythene sack 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.

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

Electrical hazards – see www.hse.gov.uk/electricity/index.htm. Get a competent electrician to isolate and reconnect electricity supply.
There may also be other hazards – you need to consider them all.

Caution:
Don’t sweep up dust or debris - use a Class H vacuum cleaner or damp rags.
Don’t take used overalls home.
Don’t reuse disposable PPE.
Don’t smoke.
Don’t eat or drink in the work area.

This guidance is issued by the Health and Safety Executive. Following the guidance is not compulsory and you are free to take other action. But if you do follow the guidance you will normally be doing enough to comply with the law. Health and safety inspectors seek to secure compliance with the law and may refer to this guidance as illustrating good practice.

This document is available at www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/essentials/index.htm

© Crown copyright If you wish to reuse this information visit www.hse.gov.uk/copyright for details. First published as part of Asbestos Essentials Task Manual 2001.

Published by the Health and Safety Executive 04/12