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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

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

Manual handling – see www.hse.gov.uk/msd. 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

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.

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