Replacing an asbestos-containing part in a ‘period’ domestic appliance

What this sheet covers
This sheet describes good practice when you need to remove an asbestos-containing replaceable part in a domestic appliance.

This is most likely if the appliance is a ‘heritage’ or ‘period’ piece, eg cooker, washing machine, dryer, dishwasher, freezer, radiator, oil stove etc.

You must use a Gas Safe-registered engineer to disconnect and make safe gas appliances.

Preparing the work area
- Have a competent electrician to isolate the appliance from the electricity supply.
- You must have a Gas Safe-registered engineer to disconnect and make safe gas appliances
- Can you do the job outdoors?
- 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) – see sheet em4
- Screwdriver and spanners
- Scraper
- Non-asbestos replacement part
- Garden-type sprayer containing wetting agent, eg diluted washing-up liquid
- Bucket of water and rags
- Asbestos waste bag
- Clear polythene bag
Other hazards

Other hazards

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

Slips and trips – see www.hse.gov.uk/slips. Floors protected with polythene become very slippery when wet.

Gas safety – check your contractor’s registration at www.gassaferegister.co.uk.

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

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).

Procedure

- Protect nearby surfaces from contamination. Cover with 500-gauge polythene sheeting and fix with duct tape to non-asbestos surfaces.
- Protect vulnerable components with polythene sheeting.

Removal

- Vacuum inside the appliance. Vacuuming should remove all loose material or articles.
- Unscrew or unbolt fixed parts using shadow vacuuming – see sheet em4. Put the fixings in the asbestos waste bag.
- Once accessible, dampen the asbestos. Continue dampening as it is exposed.
- Ease the asbestos away, into the asbestos waste bag.
- Clean using damp rags and fit the replacement part.

Cleaning and disposal

- Clean the appliance, the area and equipment with the Class H vacuum cleaner and damp rags.
- Put used rags, 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.