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.
- 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 container, eg labelled polythene sack; and
- 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.
**SAFETY CHECKLIST**

✓ Can you avoid disturbing asbestos by doing the job in some other way?
✓ Do you need a licence for the work?
✓ Always follow all legal requirements.
✓ Follow the task guidance sheet.
✓ Use an asbestos waste container.
✓ Dispose at a licensed disposal site.

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.

**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. Remove with vacuuming all loose material or articles.
- Unscrew or unbolt fixed parts using shadow vacuuming - see sheet em4. Put the fixings in the waste container.
- Once accessible, dampen the asbestos. Continue dampening as it is exposed.
- Ease the asbestos away, into the waste container.
- Gently scrape off residues using ‘shadow vacuuming’ - see sheet em4.
- 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 container and tape it closed.
- Put the asbestos waste container in a clear polythene sack and tape it closed.
- Disposal - see sheet em9.

**OTHER HAZARDS**

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

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

There may also be other hazards - you need to consider them all.
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, duty-holder or client to check off the job.

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