

a33

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

Replacing an asbestos-containing fuse box or a single fuse assembly

What this sheet covers

This sheet describes good practice when you need to remove a single asbestos-containing fuse assembly or an asbestos-containing fuse box.

Preparing the work area

- Have a competent electrician isolate and lock off the electricity supply, and test to show that the system is not live.
- 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
- Non-asbestos replacement fuse box
- Bucket of water and rags
- Asbestos waste bag
- Clear polythene bag



Old-style fuse boxes contain asbestos inside the fuse assemblies and must be handled correctly

Other hazards

Work at height – see www.hse.gov.uk/work-at-height. Take precautions to avoid falls.

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.

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

- Instead of a single fuse assembly, can you replace the whole fuse box?
- Protect nearby surfaces from contamination. Cover with 500-gauge polythene sheeting and fix with duct tape to non-asbestos surfaces.
- Check if the fuse box is attached to asbestos insulating board (AIB).
- Vacuum clean around and inside the fuse box.

Removal: Fuse box

- Remove connections and carefully unscrew using 'shadow vacuuming' – see sheet em4.
- Place the screws in the waste bag.
- Loosen and remove the fuse box. Put it in the asbestos waste bag.
- Vacuum clean and/or wipe all surfaces.
- Install the new fuse box – attach it to a non-asbestos surface.
- If the fuse box had been attached to AIB, see sheet a6 to repair minor damage.

Removal: Fuse assembly

- Unplug the fuse carrier and put it in the asbestos waste bag.
- Vacuum the fuse holder with the Class H vacuum cleaner.
- Unscrew the connections.
- Unscrew the fuse holder with 'shadow vacuuming' – see sheet em4.
- Put screws and the fuse holder in the waste bag.
- Vacuum and wipe clean the connectors.
- Install the non-asbestos replacement assembly.

Cleaning and disposal

- Clean 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.



After cleaning, put used rags, polythene sheeting and other waste in the asbestos waste bag and tape it closed

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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