

a34

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

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

Removing pins and nails from an asbestos insulating board (AIB) panel

What this sheet covers

This sheet describes good practice when you need to remove pins or nails from an AIB panel.

If the panel starts to break up or is damaged during removal of pins or nails the work will be notifiable non-licensed work (NNLW) – see sheet **a0** *Introduction to asbestos essentials*.

Preparing the work area

- Can you do this work from ground level?
- Restrict access – minimise the number of people present.

Equipment

- Thick paste, eg wallpaper paste or shaving foam
- Permanent sealant
- Filler
- Pliers
- Paint brush
- Bucket of water and rags
- Asbestos waste bag
- Clear polythene bag

Personal protective equipment (PPE) – see sheet **em6**

- Provide:
 - disposable overalls fitted with a hood;
 - boots without laces (laced boots are hard to decontaminate);
 - protective gloves. Select single use gloves.
- A respirator is not normally required.



Procedure

- If the nail/pin is flush with the surface, removal will damage AIB. Either paint over it, or get an HSE-licensed contractor for removal.
- Apply a generous amount of paste/foam around the nail/ pin.
- Extract the nail/pin with pliers and put it in the Asbestos waste bag.

Other hazards

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

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

- Wipe off remaining paste/foam with a damp rag and put it in the asbestos bag.
- Put filler in the small hole and paint over it.

Cleaning and disposal

- Clean the area with damp rags.
- Put used rags, paint brush, gloves and other waste in the asbestos bag and tape it closed.
- Put the asbestos waste bag in a clear polythene 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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