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.

Cleaning and disposal

- 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.

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.

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.