

a36

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 an asbestos cement (AC) panel outside, beside or beneath a window

What this sheet covers

This sheet describes good practice when you need to remove an AC panel mounted outdoors.

This sheet is *not* appropriate for an asbestos insulating board (AIB) panel or where the panel conceals asbestos insulation. Use an HSE-licensed contractor for such work.

Caution – for windows:

- Indoor panels beneath windows may be AIB – see sheet **a4**.
- Window sills may be made of AC – see sheet **a15**.
- Windows may have asbestos rope seals – see sheet **a25**.
- Outdoor panels are likely to be AC. Check for loose textured coatings.
- Is concealed asbestos possible? If so, ask for a survey.

Preparing the work area

- Place barriers to restrict access and minimise the number of people present.
- Ensure safe access.
- Use tape and notices to warn others.
- Ensure adequate lighting.

Equipment

- 500-gauge polythene sheeting and duct tape
- Warning tape and notices
- Sharp knife
- Hammer
- Webbing straps and rope
- Non-asbestos covering panel
- Bucket of water and rags
- Asbestos waste bag
- Clear polythene bag
- Lockable skip for larger quantities of waste
- Asbestos warning stickers

Other hazards

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

Manual handling – see www.hse.gov.uk/msd. Plan how to remove and handle heavy material and articles safely.

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

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



External AC panels



A lockable skip

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.
- Can you remove the window and panel assembly intact? Or can you remove the panels intact?
- Remove beading/nails to allow clear access to the panel. Cut beading or prise out nails. Put these in the waste bag.
- If you cannot remove the panel intact, attach duct tape over the surface. Carefully break it into large pieces with the hammer.
- Lower the pieces to the ground.
- Place the sheet and debris in the lockable skip.
- Place small pieces of debris in the asbestos waste bag.
- Clean the exposed surfaces with damp rags to collect dust and debris.
- Fit a non-asbestos replacement panel.

Cleaning and disposal

- Clean the equipment and the area with damp rags.
- Put debris, 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.
- Place the sack in the lockable skip if you have one.
- 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.

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