Preparing the work area

Ensure safe access.
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
- Liquid impact adhesive
- Permanent sealant
- Non-asbestos covering panel
- Garden-type sprayer or small paint brush
- Bucket of water and rags
- Asbestos waste container, eg labelled polythene sack
- 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.

Procedure

Protect nearby surfaces from contamination. Cover with 500-gauge polythene sheeting and fix with duct tape to non-asbestos surfaces.

Remove small bits of loose board – use a damp rag. Put these in the waste container.
Paint the damaged area with sealant, by brush or gentle spraying.

After drying, cover gaps with the replacement panel. Attach it with adhesive.

Wipe dusty surfaces with a damp rag.

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 container and tape it closed.

Also dispose of the used paint brush.

Put the asbestos waste container in a clear polythene sack and tape it closed.

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.

OTHER HAZARDS


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

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.

This guidance is issued by the Health and Safety Executive. Following the guidance is not compulsory and you are free to take other action. But if you do follow the guidance you will normally be doing enough to comply with the law. Health and safety inspectors seek to secure compliance with the law and may refer to this guidance as illustrating good practice.

This document is available at www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/essentials/index.htm

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