

em3

asbestos
essentials

Building and dismantling a mini-enclosure

Equipment and method sheet

Non-licensed tasks

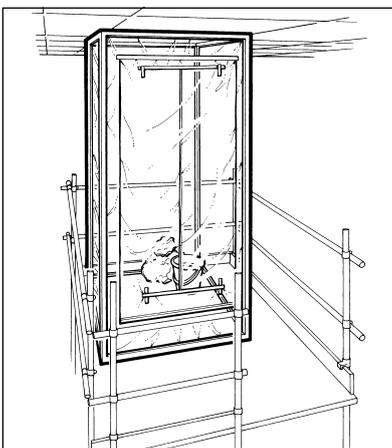
This information will help employers and the self-employed to comply with the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012.

It is also useful for trade union and employee safety representatives.

Only carry out work if you are properly trained and have the right equipment.

Remember:

- Asbestos fibres can cause fatal lung disease and lung cancer.
- Plan carefully – do you need an HSE licence to do this work?
- Read sheet a0.
- Read the safety checklist.
- You must be trained to work safely with asbestos materials.



mini enclosure

What this sheet covers

This sheet describes how to build a mini-enclosure. It applies to minor work with asbestos insulating board (AIB).

It does not apply to building full enclosures for work that must be carried out by an HSE-licensed contractor.

Caution: A mini-enclosure only prevents asbestos spreading. It does not prevent or control exposures while you are doing the task.

If work lasts for more than one hour for one worker in a seven-day period, or exceeds two hours for two or more workers in a seven-day period (including setting up, building enclosures and cleaning), a licensed contractor will be required to do the work.

Equipment

- A proprietary mini-enclosure, or a home-made mini-enclosure using 1000-gauge polythene sheeting, duct tape and masking tape, and timber or other materials for the frame
- Smoke tubes
- Sealant, eg polyvinyl acetate (PVA)
- Garden type sprayer
- Bucket of water
- Rags for wiping
- Class H vacuum cleaner (BS 8520) – see sheet em4
- Asbestos waste bag
- Clear polythene bag

Preparing the work area

- Ensure safe access.
- Close doors. Use warning tape or notices to alert other people.

Building the enclosure

- Where possible, use a proprietary mini-enclosure as these are quicker and easier to erect.
- Alternatively, use timber or other materials to build a frame.
- Make the enclosure large enough to do the work safely.

Caution

Never use duct tape or spray adhesive on AIB. This will cause damage during dismantling.

Information for other workers

- Tell all other workers that may be nearby what you are doing, where and why.
- Tell them about other risks from the work, eg changes in fire exits.

- Attach the polythene sheeting inside the frame with duct tape. This minimises cleaning.
- Attach the polythene sheeting to the ceiling with suitable tape.
- Attach it to non-asbestos surfaces with duct tape.
- Make an entry slit in one wall of the enclosure and reinforce this with duct tape.
- Attach a polythene sheet above the entry slit to cover it.
- Use smoke tubes to check all enclosures for leaks.
- Release smoke at the seals inside the enclosure.
- Someone else must check for leaks outside.
- Seal all leaks.
- Put all tools for the task – bucket of water, rags, sprayer, vacuum cleaner nozzle and hose etc inside the enclosure.

Enclosure dismantling

- Work carefully – prevent asbestos escaping.
- Clean the enclosed area with the Class H vacuum cleaner.
- Clean the equipment and polythene sheeting with damp rags.
- Decontaminate yourself – see sheet em8.
- Inspect the enclosure visually – is it properly clean?
- Spray the polythene sheeting with PVA sealant.
- Remove the sheeting from the framework and put it in the asbestos waste bag.
- Remove your protective equipment and dispose of it.
- Put in a clear polythene bag and tape closed.
- If the framework is clean and was fully protected, you can re-use it.



Put the equipment you need inside the enclosure before you start



Test the enclosure for leaks with a smoke test

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This guidance is issued by the Health and Safety Executive. Following the guidance is not compulsory, unless specifically stated, 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.

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