

em8

asbestos
essentials

Personal decontamination

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.
- Check what you're working on before you start.
- Read the safety checklist and sheet a0.
- You must be trained to work safely with asbestos materials.

What this sheet covers

This sheet describes how to decontaminate yourself after work with asbestos materials.

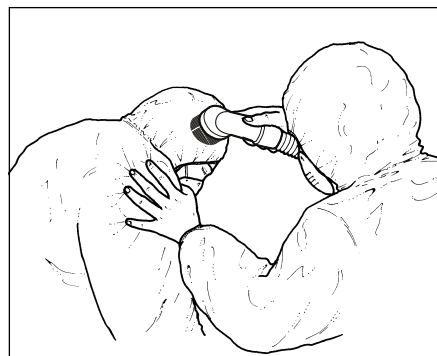
Personal decontamination is easier when you wear the correct personal protective equipment (PPE).

You need to decontaminate yourself properly, otherwise you may take asbestos fibres home on your clothing and expose your family and friends.

Procedures

Removing and decontaminating PPE

- Clean your boots with damp rags – see sheet em7.
- Where available, clean your overalls with the brush attachment on a Class H vacuum cleaner. Vacuum off the brush.
- Otherwise, use damp rags in a gentle 'patting' action. Rubbing can disturb fibres.
- Where there are two workers, they can help to clean each other.
- Peel off disposable overalls. They should be inside out when they have been removed. Put them in a suitable asbestos waste bag.
- Bag up reusable overalls for a specialist laundry.
- Finally, remove your respiratory protective equipment (RPE) in accordance with em6.
- Tape the bag closed.



'Buddy' cleaning using a Class H vacuum cleaner



Make sure you restrict access



Cleaning with damp rag using patting action

Personal decontamination

- A suitable location for personal decontamination should be considered as part of the planning before the job commences.
- Can you use site washing facilities? If so, they must be for your use only.
- Keep other people out during personal decontamination, and until you have cleaned the facilities.
- Wash every time you leave the work area.
- Use damp rags to clean the washing facilities at the end of the job.
- Clean the facilities daily if the job lasts more than one day.
- Inspect the facilities visually once the job is finished.
- Clearance air sampling is not normally needed for washing facilities.
- See sheet em9 for disposal of asbestos waste.

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