

Leadership and worker involvement toolkit

Preventing exposure to asbestos

One of the top five health risks arising from construction work

Checklist from Seven steps > Step 3 > Key tool > Health risks



Manager

- 1) Avoid disturbing asbestos-containing materials, if possible.
- 2) If you are not a licensed contractor, make sure you know what work can be carried out on asbestos-containing materials.
- 3) Ensure that anyone going to work on asbestos material has received adequate training.
- 4) Use HSE's *Asbestos essentials* to ensure the job is carried out properly.
- 5) Prepare a plan of work, explaining what the job involves, the work procedures and what controls to use.
- 6) Ensure that those doing the work understand the plan of work.
- 7) Provide the right protective clothing and equipment, including properly fitted respirators and overalls.
- 8) Make sure the work area is inspected visually at the end of the job and there is no debris or dust.
- 9) Make arrangements for the safe disposal of any asbestos waste.
- 10) Consult with others who may be affected by the work.

Worker

- 1) Make sure you have been properly trained for work with asbestos and understand what is required of you in the plan of work.
- 2) Use HSE's guidance to help you carry out the job properly and ensure that exposure to asbestos is kept as low as possible.
- 3) If you have any concerns, stop work and talk to your supervisor.
- 4) Don't eat, smoke or drink in the work area.
- 5) Use any equipment provided, including that for personal protection; ensure it is clean and in good working order.
- 6) Make sure the work area is clean at the end of the job. Don't sweep up dust and debris – use a Type H vacuum cleaner and wet rags.
- 7) Ensure asbestos waste is disposed of safely.

Links to HSE guidance

HSE *Asbestos essentials* task sheets can be found at: www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/essentials/

Planning – Prioritising decisions and managing risk

- 1) Identify where there might be asbestos-containing materials.
- 2) Consider eliminating the need to work with asbestos. Can you avoid disturbing asbestos by doing the job some other way?
- 3) Does the work need to be done by a licensed contractor?
- 4) Where it is not possible to eliminate the risk, develop a plan of work that highlights the risks and identifies the controls that must be used. Communicate this so that it is understood by all involved.
- 5) Workers must be provided with the appropriate respiratory protective equipment (RPE) and any other protective equipment identified in the plan of work. This must be properly fitted, clean and in full working order.
- 6) Ensure all workers are trained in non-licensable asbestos work and follow the appropriate task guidance sheets.
- 7) Use an asbestos waste container and dispose of asbestos waste safely.

To download this checklist, complete the *Exposure to Asbestos* case study, see:
Seven steps > Step 3 > Key tool > Health risks



Record your site briefing here

Who has been briefed:

I confirm that I have briefed these people on the key points of the LWIT Step 3 Key tool on preventing exposure to asbestos.

Signed off by

Concerns raised at the briefing

Changes implemented or actions planned

The *Leadership and worker involvement toolkit* is aimed particularly at small and medium sized businesses and is designed to help improve your health and safety and bring additional benefits to your business performance and productivity. See: www.hse.gov.uk/construction/lwit/

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