

**a7**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

**em4** Using a Class H vacuum cleaner for asbestos

**em7** Using damp rags to clean surfaces of minor asbestos contamination

**em8** Personal decontamination

**em9** Disposal of asbestos waste

# Painting undamaged asbestos insulating board (AIB)

**What this sheet covers**

This sheet describes good practice when you need to paint undamaged AIB for protection or for decoration.

This sheet is not appropriate where the asbestos material is badly damaged. Use an HSE-licensed contractor for such work.

**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
- Class H vacuum cleaner (BS 8520) (if available – see sheet em4)
- Low-solvent paint
- Low-pressure sprayer, brush or roller
- Bucket of water and rags
- Asbestos waste bag
- Clear polythene bag

**Personal protective equipment (PPE) – see sheet em6**

- Provide
  - disposable overalls fitted with a hood;
  - boots without laces (laced boots are hard to decontaminate).
- A respirator is not normally required.



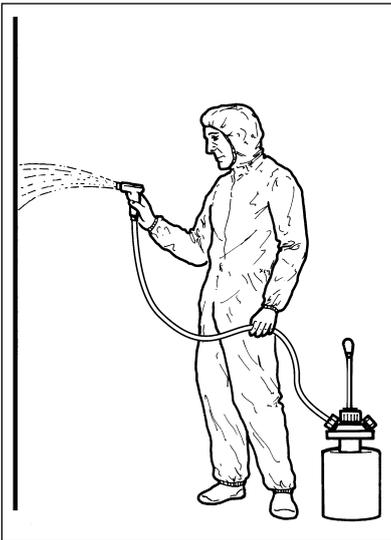
**Caution**

Never prepare surfaces by sanding or rubbing down.

**Other hazards**

Work at height – see [www.hse.gov.uk/work-at-height](http://www.hse.gov.uk/work-at-height). Take precautions to avoid falls.

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



Use low-pressure spraying where possible

**Procedure**

- Check that there is no damage before starting work; if there is, see sheet a6.
- Protect nearby surfaces from contamination. Cover with 500-gauge polythene sheeting and fix with duct tape to non-asbestos surfaces.
- Remove dust using a Class H vacuum cleaner (if available) or damp rags.
- Apply the paint, preferably by low-pressure spraying.
- Spray using a sweeping motion.
- If painting by brush or roller, do so gently and avoid concentrating on one area to reduce surface damage.

**Cleaning and disposal**

- Clean the equipment and the area with damp rags.
- Put debris, used rags, polythene sheeting, paintbrush/roller 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.
- 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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