

a10

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

em5 Wetting asbestos materials

em7 Using damp rags to clean surfaces of minor asbestos contamination

em8 Personal decontamination

em9 Disposal of asbestos waste

Cleaning debris from gutters on an asbestos cement (AC) roof

What this sheet covers

This sheet describes good practice when you need to remove debris from gutters.

The gutters may be made of AC, or it may simply collect water from an AC roof.

Preparing the work area

- Ensure safe access.
- Can you do this work from ground-level?
- Restrict access – minimise the number of people present.
- Use tape and notices to warn others.

Equipment

- Warning tape and notices
- Scoop, trowel or scraper
- Garden-type sprayer or watering can containing wetting agent
- Bucket of water and rags
- Asbestos waste bag
- Clear polythene bag

Personal protective equipment (PPE)

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



Procedure

- Sprinkle the wetting solution into the gutter. Avoid creating a slurry.
- Scoop out the debris into the waste bag.
- Wet the debris again if you find dry material.

Caution

AC roofs are always fragile and cannot bear weight.

Other hazards

Work at height – see www.hse.gov.uk/work-at-height. Take precautions to avoid falls.

Work on fragile roofs – see www.hse.gov.uk/construction. Fragile roofs cannot bear weight.

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



Wet the debris again if you find dry material. Avoid creating a slurry

Cleaning and disposal

- Clean the equipment with damp rags.
- Put used rags 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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