

a6

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

em6 Personal protective equipment (including RPE)

em7 Using damp rags to clean surfaces of minor asbestos contamination

em8 Personal decontamination

em9 Disposal of asbestos waste

Repairing minor damage to asbestos insulating board (AIB)

What this sheet covers

This sheet describes good practice when you need to repair small areas of damaged AIB, eg a broken corner or scratches.

This sheet is *not* appropriate:

- if work lasts 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;
- where the material is badly damaged.

Use an HSE-licensed contractor for such work.

If AIB is in a position where further damage is likely, see sheet a8.

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
- Liquid impact adhesive
- Permanent sealant
- Non-asbestos replacement panel for covering gaps
- Garden-type sprayer or small paint brush
- 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);
 - respiratory protective equipment (RPE).



Other hazards

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

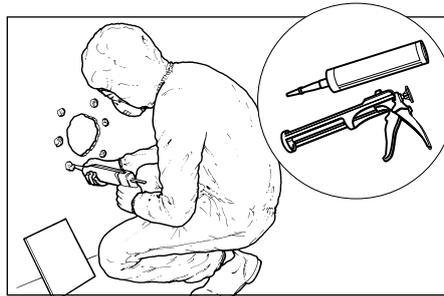
There may be other hazards – you need to consider them all.



This damaged AIB needs to be covered and protected from further damage

Procedure

- Protect nearby surfaces from contamination. Cover with 500-gauge polythene sheeting and fix with duct tape to non-asbestos surfaces.
- Remove small bits of loose board – use a damp rag. Put these in the asbestos waste bag.
- Paint the damaged area with sealant by brush or gentle spraying.
- After drying, cover gaps with the replacement panel.
- Attach it with adhesive.
- Wipe dusty surfaces with a damp rag.



Attach the replacement panel with adhesive



Wipe up dust and debris with a damp rag

Cleaning and disposal

- Clean the equipment and the area with damp rags.
- Put debris, used rags, paint brush, polythene sheeting 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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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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