

a13

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

Repairing damaged asbestos cement (AC)

What this sheet covers

This sheet describes good practice when you need to repair damaged AC. For badly damaged AC, see sheet a14 or sheet a15.

This sheet is not appropriate for repairs to asbestos insulating board – see sheet a6.

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
- Mastic or sealant for gaps
- Garden-type sprayer 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).
- A respirator is not normally required.



Procedure

- Protect nearby surfaces from contamination. Cover with 500-gauge polythene sheeting and fix with duct tape to non-asbestos surfaces.
- Clean up debris and loose material – see sheet a11.
- Paint the damaged area – see sheet a16.

Caution

AC roofs are always fragile and cannot bear weight.

Other hazards

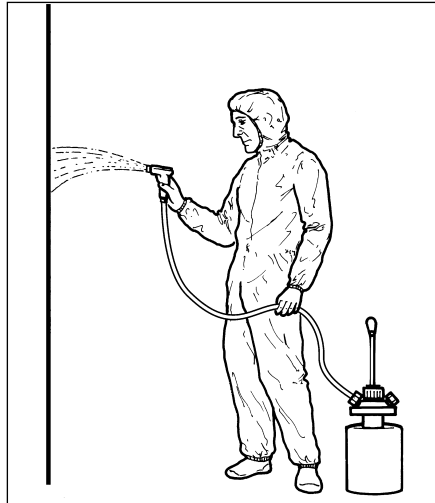
Work at height – see www.hse.gov.uk/work-at-height. Take precautions to avoid falls.

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

Slips and trips – see www.hse.gov.uk/slips. Floors protected with polythene become very slippery when wet.

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

- Alternatively, protect the area by attaching and sealing a non-asbestos panel over the damage – see sheet a8.
- Warn the building owner about the presence of asbestos-containing material you have covered so it can be managed properly.



Paint or cover the damaged area, see a8 and a16

Cleaning and disposal

- Clean the equipment and the area with damp rags.
- Put debris, used rags, 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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