

a15

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

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

Removing an asbestos cement (AC) or reinforced plastic product, eg tank, duct, water cistern

What this sheet covers

This sheet describes good practice when you need to remove an AC product (eg tank) or a plastic reinforced product (eg a bakelite cistern) from an area such as a loft.

If the article is no longer needed, but doesn't interfere with any other installations or work, then note its location for the building owner and leave it in place.

See sheet a35 for AC flues and ducts and sheet a23 for plastic floor tiles.

If the product is attached to asbestos insulating board, see sheet em4 on shadow vacuuming and sheet a6 for minor damage repair.

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

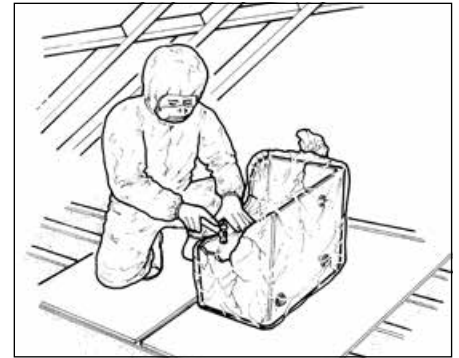
- 500- and 1000-gauge polythene sheeting and duct tape
- Warning tape and notices
- Screwdriver and spanners
- Hammer
- Garden-type sprayer containing wetting agent
- Bucket of water and rags
- Asbestos waste bag
- Clear polythene bag
- Asbestos warning stickers

Other hazards

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

Manual handling – see www.hse.gov.uk/msd. Plan how to remove and handle heavy material and articles safely.

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



Try to remove the product intact, or wrap it in 1000-gauge polythene sheet before breaking it up

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).
- A respirator is not normally needed to remove a reinforced plastic product.

Procedure

- For lofts and similar areas, board out an area large enough to work on and to prevent asbestos contaminating loft insulation nearby.
- Protect nearby surfaces from contamination. Cover with 500-gauge polythene sheeting and fix with duct tape to non-asbestos surfaces.
- Check that the product is not fixed to asbestos insulating board.

Removal

AC product: Removal intact

- Strengthen any damaged sections with duct tape.
- Remove fittings, plumbing etc and unscrew the product from its supports.
- Place the screws in the asbestos waste bag.
- Double-wrap the product in 1000-gauge polythene sheet.
- Attach asbestos warning stickers.
- Lower to the ground carefully.

AC product: Non-intact removal

- Dampen the product and wrap it in 1000-gauge polythene sheet.
- Carefully break the wrapped product with the hammer.
- If pieces are small enough, place them whole in asbestos waste bags.
- Lower large pieces to the ground. Don't drop them or use rubble chutes. Stack sheets carefully.

- Double-wrap large pieces in 1000-gauge polythene sheeting. Seal with duct tape.
- Attach asbestos warning stickers.

Cleaning and disposal

- Clean the equipment and the area with damp rags.
- Check for debris in screw or bolt holes. Clean 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.



See sheet a35 for AC flues and ducts and sheet a23 for plastic floor tiles

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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