

**a5**

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

**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

# Cleaning light fittings attached to asbestos insulating board (AIB)

## What this sheet covers

This sheet describes good practice when you need to clean a contaminated light fitting attached to AIB, eg to change a bulb or tube.

This sheet is *not* appropriate where the AIB is damaged or may be damaged, eg by 'rocking' the screws during cleaning. Use an HSE-licensed contractor for such work.

See sheet **em4** *Using a Class H vacuum cleaner for asbestos when removing a screwed-in fitting*, 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-gauge polythene sheeting and duct tape
- Warning tape and notices
- Class H vacuum cleaner (BS 8520) – see sheet **em4**
- 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).





Cleaning inside the tube fitting with a Class H vacuum cleaner

### 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.

Electrical hazards – see [www.hse.gov.uk/electricity](http://www.hse.gov.uk/electricity). Get a competent electrician to isolate and reconnect electricity supply.

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

## Procedure

- Isolate the power supply – use a competent electrician.
- Protect nearby surfaces from contamination. Cover with 500-gauge polythene sheeting and fix with duct tape to non-asbestos surfaces.
- Avoid removing the light fitting – this may disturb the AIB.
- Clean the light-fitting exterior with the Class H vacuum cleaner.
- Place easily removable sections on the polythene sheeting, for cleaning on the floor.
- Open the light fitting carefully. Insert the Class H vacuum cleaner hose and clean inside the fitting.
- Complete the cleaning with the Class H vacuum cleaner.

## Cleaning and disposal

- Clean 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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