

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. Take precautions to avoid falls.

Electrical hazards – see 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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