

Asbestos

Safety in your home



This leaflet contains information about asbestos, what it is, where it can be found and what to do if you think you may have asbestos in your home.

What is asbestos?

Asbestos is a naturally occurring fibrous material that was a popular building material up until 2000. Properties built between the 1950s and 1980s are most likely to contain some form of asbestos material.

Asbestos was used as a building material due to its a good insulation and heat-resistant properties, but asbestos was also found to be a health risk. All types of asbestos were banned in the UK by 2000, so if your home was built after this date it is very unlikely to contain asbestos.

What are we doing about asbestos?

We survey the communal areas of our properties, such as flat corridors, to check the condition of any asbestos materials we find as required by the Control of Asbestos Regulations.

When asbestos surveys are carried out, not only do we confirm whether or not materials contain asbestos, we also confirm their condition. Materials

containing asbestos in good condition do not pose a risk to your health and sometimes removing it can be more hazardous than leaving it alone. If the material is in a poor condition, then the decision will be made to either remove it or make it safe.

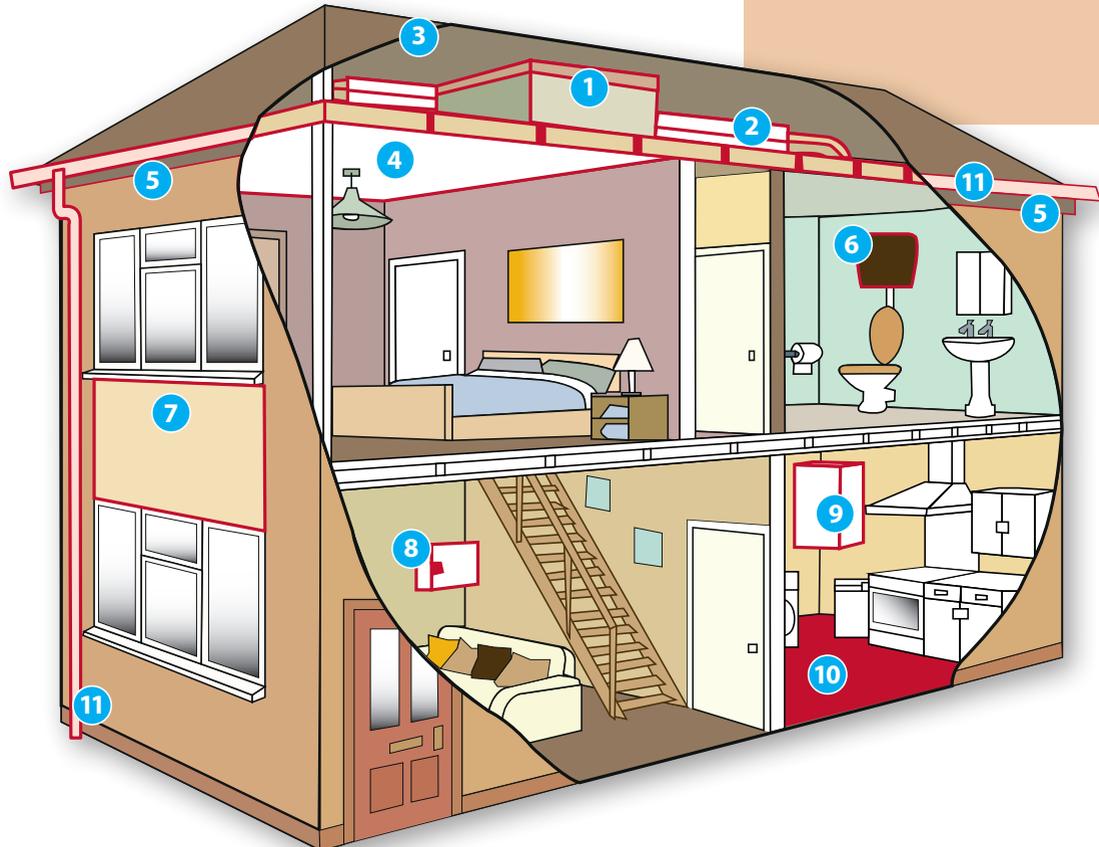
If you are planning any DIY in your home that may disturb suspect materials please contact us on the numbers provided in this leaflet.

Where can asbestos be found in homes?

1. Cold water tanks
2. Pipe lagging
3. Roof felt, sheets and tiles
4. Textured coatings (such as artex)
5. Fascia and soffit boards (such as roof overhangs)
6. Toilet cisterns
7. Wall panels
8. Fuseboards
9. Boiler/heater cupboard
10. Floor tiles
11. Rainwater guttering and downpipes

Asbestos materials can also be found in:

- Garage roof sheets
- Panels behind fires or heaters
- Panels on the back of fire doors
- Partition walls
- Service ducts
- Soil and vent pipes



What should I do if I find it?

If you think there are materials in your home that contain asbestos, please contact us. We will arrange for a local surveyor to inspect it and decide what should happen next.

Can I remove it myself?

No. Removing asbestos is a job for the experts. Only appointed contractors with a special licence can do this.

If you're worried about asbestos in your home, call us on 0800 916 1525 or 0300 123 3561.

Should I worry if I find asbestos?

There's no need to panic – it's unlikely to be a danger to your health as long as it's undamaged and hasn't been disturbed.

The health risk comes when fibres are released from damaged asbestos – they can be harmful when inhaled.

If you are concerned, please call **0800 916 1525** or **0300 123 3561**.

Dos and don'ts

Do leave asbestos materials where they are if they're in a good condition and cannot be damaged.

Don't work with, damage or remove materials that you know, or think, might contain asbestos.

Don't rub down or sand a product that you know, or think, might contain asbestos (for example, artex).

Don't drill through an asbestos product – this will release fibres, which if breathed in may endanger your health.

Don't break off pieces from materials you know, or think, may contain asbestos.

This leaflet can be translated into other languages, large print and Braille or recorded on to an audio CD. Please contact your local office for details.

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