

# Asbestos in the home

আপনার বাড়িতে এ্যাসবেস্টস  
石棉與你的家居  
તમારા ઘરમાં એસ્બેસ્ટોસ  
Azbest w Twoim domu  
آپ کے مکان میں ایس بیسٹاس

**RESIDENT  
APPROVED** ✓



# Asbestos in the home

**This leaflet explains what to do if there is asbestos in your home.**

## **What is asbestos?**

Asbestos is a natural fibre and was used in a wide range of building materials and products up to the 1980's. This is because it's a good insulator and resistant to fire.

Homes built since the mid 1980s are unlikely to contain asbestos. This is because of changes in health and safety laws.

## **Why is it harmful?**

When products containing asbestos get old or damaged, they can release fibres into the air.

When people breathe in high levels of these fibres they risk getting lung disease, including cancer.

There are may be asbestos in your home. However there is little risk unless the product containing it is damaged. If there is damaged asbestos in your home please contact us for advice.

## Where might I find asbestos in my home?

You might find asbestos in these common building materials:

- sprayed asbestos- generally used as fire breaks in ceiling spaces, fire protection of ducts and structural steelwork
- lagging around pipes and boilers
- wall, ceilings and door linings
- roofing tiles and felt
- some ceiling tiles
- some flooring
- decorative textured coatings generally applied before 1990
- bath panels
- boarding and gaskets in electrical mains fuse cupboards and some gas fires
- Asbestos cement products, like flat or corrugated roofing sheets and wall cladding on garages, sheds etc



- gutters, rainwater pipes, water tanks and flues.

Some household products, such as oven gloves and ironing boards also contain asbestos. The use of asbestos in these products decreased in the mid 1980s and was banned in 1993.

### **How to tell if a product contains asbestos**

Since 1976 British manufacturers put labels on their products to show they contain asbestos. Since 1986 all products with asbestos carry the European label. The supplier or manufacturer may be able to tell you if it contains asbestos.

We will tell you if we think there is asbestos in your home and what you and we can do about it.

**Remember: products that contain asbestos can look very similar to those that don't. If in doubt contact us on 0800 408 2000 about building materials.**

**Contact Gloucester City Council's Environmental Health service on 01452 396396 about other goods.**

### **How are we reducing the risk?**

We have surveyed a sample of our homes to get a picture of where there is asbestos. This helps us to manage it and reduce any risk to you. We may remove asbestos but if it is in good condition it may be safer to leave it where it is.

If asbestos material is damaged we will remove

it. If it's not damaged we may leave it alone to do its fire-resistant job. In that case we'll make sure that everyone knows the asbestos is there and that nobody damages it.

When we repair or improve your home, we will treat asbestos with the caution it deserves. This ensures that your health and safety and that of our staff is not put at risk.

## **What should I do if I think there is asbestos in my home?**

It's often best to leave asbestos where it is if it's in good condition and not easily damaged. Removing it can lead to higher levels of fibre in the air for some time. We will check the condition of the asbestos from time to time to make sure isn't damaged or deteriorating.



## Do:

- ✓ contact us straight away if you think there is damaged or deteriorating asbestos in your home
- ✓ contact us if you think your warm-air heating system, electrical storage heating system or flameless catalytic gas heater may contain asbestos.

## Don't:

- ✗ disturb or damage asbestos that is in good condition
- ✗ keep using oven gloves or other small items containing asbestos – dispose of them safely (see the section on disposing of asbestos).

## Doing DIY in your home

Please remember to contact us for permission before doing any alterations or improvements to your home.

When you do this, we can tell you about any asbestos in your home and how to treat it.

If you have asbestos in your home, take extra care when doing DIY.

## Do:

- ✓ keep other people away from the work area
- ✓ wear protective clothing – preferably disposable
- ✓ wear a protective face mask to EN 149 standard and avoid breathing in dust
- ✓ keep asbestos products wet to reduce dust

✓ work outside if possible and avoid working overhead

✓ use hand tools not power tools.

**Don't:**

✗ attempt work involving sprayed asbestos, lagging or insulating boards. This must be done by a licensed asbestos-removal contractor. If in doubt, contact us

✗ drill, cut or disturb asbestos unless absolutely necessary. Do not scrape or sand asbestos products before painting and decorating. Some types of asbestos products are very soft and can release large amounts of fibre if rubbed or scraped



**X** use a domestic vacuum cleaner to clear up the dust. Hire an industrial vacuum cleaner that conforms to BS 5415 (Type H)

**X** when you have finished work, clean up and then take off the overalls carefully to avoid raising any dust that may have collected in the fabric.

Wash non-disposable overalls in a washing machine straight away. Separate them from other clothing.

Double-bag disposable overalls. Clearly mark 'ASBESTOS' on the bag and dispose of them as asbestos waste.

## **Disposing of asbestos**

**We strongly advise you to let Gloucester City Homes deal with any asbestos in your home.**

If you find asbestos in your home or garden, don't put it in the dustbin. Phone Gloucester City Council's Environmental Health service about how to dispose of it: 01452 396396

### **More information**

For more information please contact us or visit [www.gloscityhomes.co.uk](http://www.gloscityhomes.co.uk) or GCHTV on the Looking Local service.

Or contact the Health and Safety Executive  
[www.hse.co.uk](http://www.hse.co.uk)  
Tel: 0845 345 0055.



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## Contacting us

Customer Services Team, Gloucester City Homes, Atlantic Suite,  
Southgate House, Southgate Street, Gloucester GL1 1UB

**Customer Services Line:** 0800 408 2000 (freephone)  
or 01452 530626 (normal call charges apply)

**Text:** 0778 148 2656 **Fax:** 01452 396599 **Minicom:** 01452 396161

**Email:** [customer.services@gloscityhomes.co.uk](mailto:customer.services@gloscityhomes.co.uk)

**Web site:** [www.gloscityhomes.co.uk](http://www.gloscityhomes.co.uk) **Digital TV:** GCHTV on Looking Local

You can also contact us using our online reporting forms. Our website is speech enabled and you can adjust the size of the text and translate it to other languages.

If you would like any part of this document explained, translated or provided in another format such as large print, audio or Braille, please contact us.

আপনি যদি এই ডকুমেন্টের কোন অংশের ব্যাখ্যা, অনুবাদ অথবা বড় অক্ষর, অডিও অথবা ব্রেইলের মত অন্য কোন ফরম্যাটে চান তাহলে দয়া করে আমাদের সাথে যোগাযোগ করুন।

Bengali

如果您希望我們解釋、翻譯本文檔，或提供大字體、音頻或盲文等其他版本，敬請聯繫我們。

Chinese

જો આપને આ પુસ્તકમાંના કોઈપણ ભાગની સ્પષ્ટીકરણ જોઈતી હોય અથવા આ પુસ્તક અન્ય ભાષામાં અથવા રૂપમાં જોઈતી હોય, દાખલા તરીકે, મોટા અક્ષરોમાં, ઓડીયો પર અથવા બ્રેઇલમાં, તો કૃપા કરી અમારા સાથે સંપર્ક કરો.

Gujarati

Proszę zgłosić się do nas po uzyskanie wyjaśnień, przetłumaczenia względnie uzyskania niniejszego dokumentu w większym druku, w postaci dźwiękowej lub języku dla niewidomych.

Polish

اگر آپ اس دستاویز کے کسی حصے کی وضاحت، ترجمہ یا کسی اور شکل میں جیسے کہ بڑے حروف، آڈیو یا ابھرے حروف میں حاصل کرنا چاہتے ہیں، تو براہ مہربانی ہم سے رابطہ کریں۔

Urdu