

## RESIDENTIAL ASBESTOS Checklist for Tradies



## A TRADEPERSON'S GUIDE TO ASBESTOS-CONTAINING MATERIALS IN DOMESTIC PROPERTIES

Asbestos-containing materials can be found in any Australian home built or renovated before 1990. Although asbestos was banned in Australia in 2003, thousands of different types of products remain hidden dangers in 1 in 3 homes including brick, weatherboard, fibro, clad homes and apartments as well as buildings such as garages, farm structures and in commercial properties if constructed or refurbished before 1990. Asbestos could be anywhere!

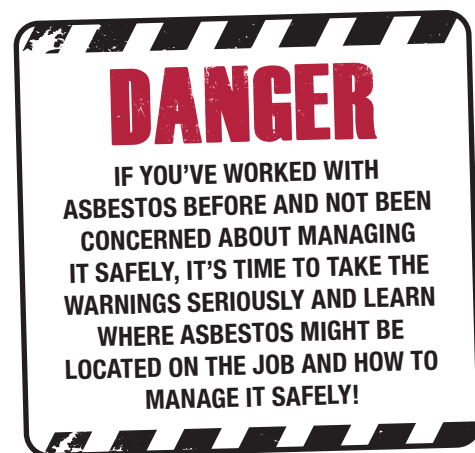
Many tradespersons, workers and labourers can expect to encounter asbestos-containing materials (ACM) in their day-to-day work. Without knowing where these products might be located or how to manage asbestos safely, Tradies risk disturbing asbestos and releasing fibres when renovating or maintaining homes. If the fibres are inhaled they could lead to asbestos-related diseases.

### TRADIES MUST MINIMISE THE RISK OF EXPOSURE TO ASBESTOS FIBRES!

Before commencing any work, renovations or refurbishments to residential properties, Tradies and workers must determine if asbestos containing materials are present to ensure they minimise the risks to their health and the health of colleagues, families and bystanders by following the **20 Point Safety Checklist for Tradies** and use the **Residential Asbestos Checklist for Tradies** to assist in identifying the many various types of asbestos-containing products and where they might be located in homes.

NOTE: Use the **Total Property** or a **Trade-Specific** Checklist.

Tradies should check out the **20 Point Asbestos Safety Checklist for Tradies** at [asbestosawareness.com.au](http://asbestosawareness.com.au) or contact their trade association for guidelines.



## WHICH TRADE WORKERS ARE MOST LIKELY TO COME INTO CONTACT WITH ASBESTOS ON THE JOB?

Bricklayers, builders, building construction and civil construction workers, building maintenance workers, carpenters, home handyman, installers of external cladding, joiners, landscapers, layers of floor covering and floor sanders (stripping carpets), painters, wallpaper hangers, plumbers and drainers, electricians, roofers, tilers, fencers, installers of kitchens, bathrooms and solar panelling.

Other trades that may come into contact with asbestos in the home building and maintenance workplace include: rubbish removalists (asbestos illegally placed in bins), landscapers (buried asbestos) heating and air conditioning installers and maintenance workers, gas fitters, roof and guttering installers, telecommunications technicians (installing cabling), insulation installers, demolition workers, farmers and farmhands in rural areas, waste disposal facility workers as green waste and recycling waste can sometimes contain asbestos and land fill operators.

## WHY IT'S VITAL THAT TRADIES CONDUCT A RESIDENTIAL ASBESTOS CHECKLIST

1 in 3 dwellings will contain asbestos in some form or another so it's vital that tradespeople working on homes and properties ensure they know where asbestos might be located and the steps to take when asbestos might be present to manage it safely in the workplace.

To avoid health risks, all tradespeople need to conduct a **Residential Asbestos Checklist for Tradies** to be aware of where asbestos might be located in residential properties so there are NO SURPRISES on the job and they can manage their work safely!

The **Residential Asbestos Checklist for Tradies** is intended for use as a **guide** only. It is a visual inspection and is not a 'formal' Asbestos Register and Management Plan.

## DO TRADIES NEED A FORMAL ASBESTOS REGISTER AND MANAGEMENT PLAN WHEN WORKING ON RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES?

Only when a premises has been defined as a workplace. For more information contact the Council or State or Territory Government to find out if you need to have a formal Asbestos Register and Management Plan.

## WHO SHOULD REMOVE AND DISPOSE OF ASBESTOS-CONTAINING MATERIALS?

**LICENCED ASBESTOS REMOVALISTS SHOULD REMOVE ASBESTOS MATERIALS.**

- There are 2 types of Asbestos Removal Licences: Class A and Class B.
  - Class A Licence can remove all types of asbestos including Friable (crumbly material).
  - Class B Licence can only remove non-friable (solid) asbestos materials.
- Regulations about asbestos removal vary from state-to-state. Visit [asbestosawareness.com.au](http://asbestosawareness.com.au) to ensure you follow regulations.

## WHEN TO GET THE PROFESSIONALS IN!

IF ASBESTOS PRODUCTS NEED TO BE REMOVED, IT'S RECOMMENDED THAT TRADIES USE LICENCED ASBESTOS REMOVALISTS TRAINED TO REMOVE AND DISPOSE OF ASBESTOS SAFELY.

THE COST OF ENGAGING A PROFESSIONAL LICENCED ASBESTOS REMOVALIST IS COMPARABLE TO OTHER LICENCED TRADESPERSONS INCLUDING ELECTRICIANS, PLUMBERS AND TILERS.

**NOTE:** Regulations on asbestos management can vary from state-to-state. Check your State or Territory Government websites for regulations specific to the region where you work.

**NOTE:** You may be required to maintain an Asbestos Register and Management Plan.

## WARNING

UNLESS YOU ARE TRAINED IN ASBESTOS AWARENESS & MANAGEMENT, WHEN IT COMES TO ASBESTOS;

**DON'T CUT IT!**  
**DON'T DRILL IT!**  
**DON'T DROP IT!**  
**DON'T SAND IT!**  
**DON'T SAW IT!**  
**DON'T SCRAPE IT!**  
**DON'T SCRUB IT!**  
**DON'T DISMANTLE IT!**  
**DON'T TIP IT!**  
**DON'T WATERBLAST IT!**  
**DON'T DEMOLISH IT!**  
AND WHATEVER YOU DO...  
**DON'T DUMP IT!**

**IF YOU ARE A TRADIE OR WORKING ON RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES, PLAY IT SAFE!**  
**CONDUCT A RESIDENTIAL ASBESTOS CHECKLIST TO PROTECT YOU, COLLEAGUES, FAMILIES AND BYSTANDERS FROM EXPOSURE TO ASBESTOS FIBRES.**

## HOW COMMON IS ASBESTOS IN HOMES?

**1 in 3 Australian homes contain asbestos.** Asbestos was used in the manufacture of a broad range of products. It could be anywhere! Under floor coverings including carpets, linoleum and vinyl tiles, behind wall and floor tiles, in cement floors, internal and external walls, ceilings and ceiling space (insulation), eaves, garages, roofs, around hot water pipes, fences, extensions to homes, garages, outdoor toilets, backyard and farm structures, chook sheds and even dog kennels.

Without knowing where these types of asbestos-containing products might be located or how to manage and dispose of asbestos safely, Tradies could be putting their lives, the lives of their colleagues, families, friends and clients at risk.

## HOW TO KNOW IF A PRODUCT OR MATERIAL MAY CONTAINS ASBESTOS?

- Conduct a **Residential Asbestos Checklist for Tradies** to assist in identifying the many various types of asbestos-containing products and where they might be located in residential buildings.
- Only testing by a NATA accredited testing facility can determine if asbestos is present.
- If you think asbestos may be present, treat it as if it is asbestos and take all the appropriate precautions.

✓ To rule out if asbestos products are in homes, you can have it inspected by a licenced asbestos assessor or occupational hygienist.

Only scientific testing can determine if a product contains asbestos.

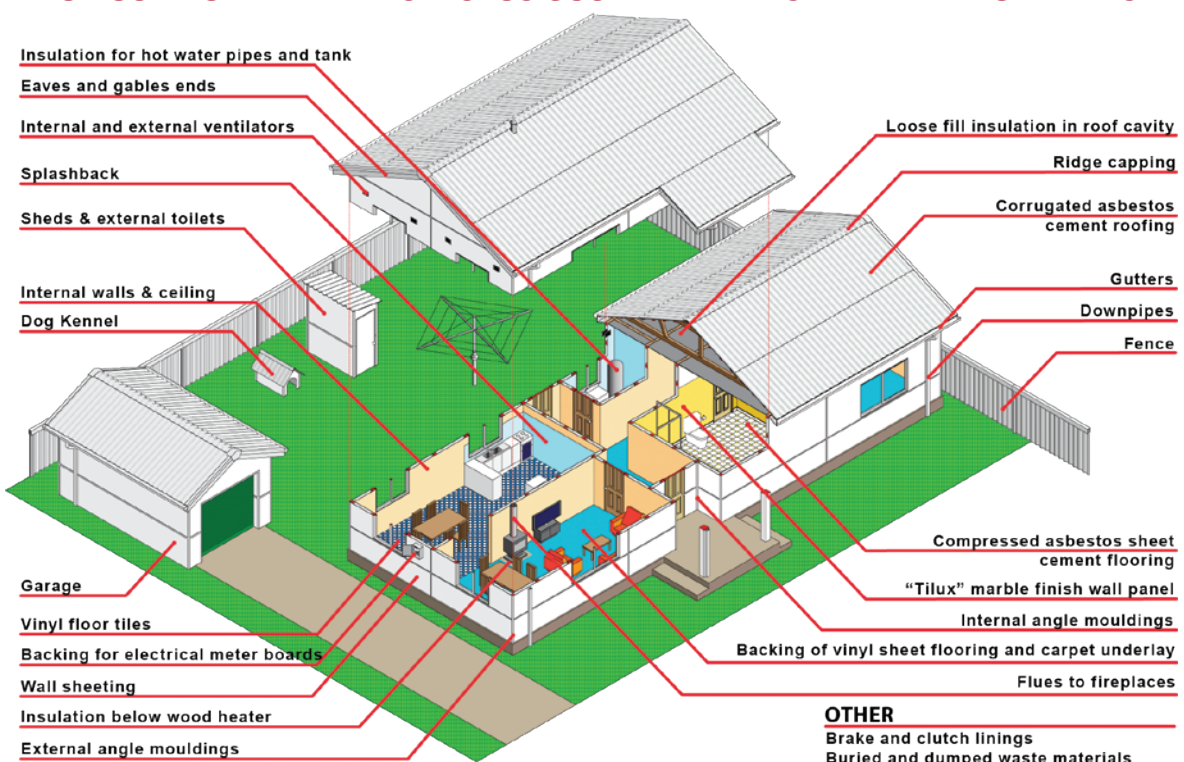
**THE RULE IS, IF YOU THINK IT MIGHT BE ASBESTOS, TREAT IT AS IF IT IS ASBESTOS AND TAKE ALL THE PRECAUTIONS TO MANAGE IT SAFELY.**



FIBRO EXTENSION TO BRICK HOME

# 1 IN 3 AUSTRALIAN HOMES CONTAIN ASBESTOS!

## DO YOU KNOW WHERE ASBESTOS COULD BE IN RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES?



## WHAT ARE SOME OF THE MOST COMMON ASBESTOS PRODUCTS FOUND IN HOMES?

Asbestos may not just be in building materials like walls, ceilings roofing and fences. Asbestos was commonly used in wet areas and in relation to heating including wood heaters, stoves and in sheeting beneath hearths

**The most common uses for products include:**

- Fibro sheeting (flat and corrugated) which may have been used in internal walls and ceilings, external walls and cladding, roofing, infill panels in windows and doors, eaves, fencing, carports, sheeting under floor tiles, bathroom and laundry walls, backyard sheds and dog kennels.
- Electrical switchboards, backing to floor tiles and sheet vinyl, carpet underlay, the backing behind ceramic wall tiles and textile seals to ovens.
- Water drainage, downpipes and flue pipes.
- Roofing shingles and guttering.
- In some homes, loose-fill asbestos was used in ceiling space as insulation.

## ARE THERE OTHER HEALTH HAZARDS TRADIES NEED TO BE AWARE OF?

Yes. Lead. Most Australian homes built or renovated before 1997 can contain lead paint and other lead products including flashing around roofs, windows, doors and chimneys, solder on pipes, rainwater tanks, galvanised roofs and gutters.

Breathing dust that contains lead can be harmful to your health. Lead dust caused from the breakdown of paints could be in ceilings, wall cavities, under floors, carpets, cavity dust and in soil surrounding your home.

Some treated timbers can also contain toxins which if inhaled in smoke or in dust, can cause serious health problems. Before working with treated timber, painting or renovating visit your State or Territory Government website to learn how to manage these hazards safely.

## WHY CREATE A RESIDENTIAL ASBESTOS CHECKLIST?

By creating a **Residential Asbestos Checklist for Tradies** for worksites, Tradies will become more aware of the possible locations where asbestos might be found in residential properties so they can avoid disturbing it and ensure asbestos is managed safely, particularly if undertaking major works.

The Checklist will:

1. Note if asbestos needs to be sealed, painted or is damaged and may need to be removed;
2. Provide a record of the types and locations of asbestos so Tradies can manage their work safely;
3. Alert homeowners that they need to schedule repairs, maintenance or removal if required; and,
4. If major work or renovations are to be undertaken, the Checklist will assist in identifying asbestos-containing materials that need to be removed safely by a licenced asbestos removalist prior to commencing demolition.



ASBESTOS EAVES AND DOWNPIPE



ASBESTOS ROOFING



VINYL FLOOR COVERING



ELECTRICAL SWITCHBOARDS

## DOWNLOAD RESIDENTIAL ASBESTOS CHECKLIST

Total Property and Trade-Specific Checklists are available at [www.asbestosawareness.com.au](http://www.asbestosawareness.com.au)