

# FACT SHEET

## ASBESTOS DECONTAMINATION

### Naturally Occurring Asbestos

*For more information refer to the Naturally Occurring Asbestos – Asbestos Management Plan Guide*

### DECONTAMINATION PROCEDURES FOR WORKERS AND EQUIPMENT

When working in areas where NOA is identified, just using RPE and PPE is not sufficient to prevent exposure to asbestos fibres. Your Asbestos Management Plan must include procedures for decontamination of workers, vehicles and any equipment if the work or activity involves NOA and is likely to generate dust to eliminate or minimise asbestos fibres from leaving the worksite and becoming airborne.

#### Personal Decontamination Procedures

1. **Establish** a dedicated decontamination area suitable for workers to change into and out of PPE.
2. **Ensure** water is available for basic personal decontamination e.g. washing face, hands and boots.
3. **Contaminated PPE** should be disposed of as asbestos waste.
4. **For larger or long-term jobs** consider using demountable buildings positioned to create 'clean buildings' where all workers will enter and leave the site and 'dirty buildings' in which workers change into and out of PPE, shower prior to changing into clean clothing and prior to leaving the site.

### PERSONAL DECONTAMINATION

1. Remove any visible asbestos dust from protective clothing by wet wiping with clean, wet wipes/cloths and place a 200um plastic bag.
2. Carefully remove shoe covers (if used), gloves and coveralls and place in a 200um plastic bag.
3. Using protective shoe covers during NOA work is often not practical (due to wetting down procedures). Gumboots or boots without laces must be decontaminated after use with socks disposed of as asbestos waste daily. If boots can't be decontaminated dispose of as asbestos waste.
4. Use wet wipes/cloths to wipe down footwear then place cloths in a plastic bag.
5. Wipe down the outside of all bags with wet wipes/cloths and place in a plastic bag.
6. Remove mask last and place in a 200um plastic bag and seal using the double bag method.
7. Remove old clothing and double bag as you did the other disposable items.
8. Seal all plastic bags using duct tape and the double bag method.
9. Wash hands, nails, face and head thoroughly with soapy water.
10. Shower and wash hair to complete personal decontamination.

**IMPORTANT**  
WHEN DECONTAMINATING YOURSELF,  
ALL ITEMS MUST BE DOUBLE BAGGED,  
SEALED WITH DUCT TAPE AND  
DISPOSED OF AS ASBESTOS WASTE AS  
PER THE ABOVE.

### HOW TO SAFELY DOUBLE BAG AND SEAL ASBESTOS WASTE AND PPE

1. Carefully place NOA contaminated materials in the 200um plastic bags or wrap using rolls of 200um plastic (drop sheets), seal using duct tape and label '**DANGER ASBESTOS WASTE**'.
2. Plastic bags containing NOA contaminated materials should NOT be more than half full to prevent breaking and must be double bagged.
3. Tightly twist the bag opening and fold over to form a 'goose neck'.
4. Secure with heavy duty duct tape or similar to seal.
5. Place each sealed bag inside a second plastic bag labelled '**DANGER ASBESTOS WASTE**' and seal as you did the first bag with duct tape. This is called 'double bagging'.
6. If using rolls of 200um plastic, carefully wrap items and seal edges of plastic with duct tape. Repeat the process to double wrap materials.
7. Whether using bags or rolls of 200um plastic, all materials must be double wrapped or double bagged, sealed with duct tape and labelled '**DANGER ASBESTOS WASTE**'.

**IMPORTANT**  
ALL MATERIALS MUST BE 'DOUBLE  
BAGGED' USING 200UM PLASTIC  
BAGS OR 'DOUBLE WRAPPED'  
USING 200UM PLASTIC ROLLS,  
SEALED WITH DUCT TAPE AND  
LABELLED 'DANGER ASBESTOS  
WASTE' BEFORE BEING REMOVED  
FROM THE WORK AREA FOR  
APPROPRIATE DISPOSAL.  
YOU MUST CONTINUE TO WEAR  
YOUR PPE THROUGHOUT THIS  
PROCESS.  
REMOVE YOUR MASK LAST!



## DECONTAMINATING PLANT, EQUIPMENT AND TOOLS

1. **Only use** vehicles and plant equipment that are essential on the site.
2. **Establish** a dedicated decontamination area suitable for cleaning plant and equipment.
3. **Water access** should be suitable to conduct wash down procedures.
4. **All equipment**, tools and vehicles should be washed down before leaving the NOA area.
5. **After driving** through known NOA areas, a vehicle wheel wash should be considered.
6. **When using vehicles** fitted with a HEPA filter with windows wound up and the air conditioner set to recycle, it is not necessary for workers to decontaminate themselves however the vehicle including the wheels should undergo the wash down procedure before leaving the NOA area.
7. **For major or ongoing NOA works**, if possible utilise pool vehicles that remain on the 'dirty side' of the exclusion zone such as a utility for staff, contractors and visitors to use once they've changed into PPE. When the job is complete or the vehicle is no longer required it must be thoroughly decontaminated and cleared for work by a competent, trained person.

## SAFELY DISPOSE OF ASBESTOS WASTE - Whatever you do, DON'T dump it!

It is **IMPORTANT** that all PPE and any NOA contaminated materials are disposed of as **ASBESTOS WASTE**.

Not all waste centres accept asbestos waste. Check with Council for your nearest authorised asbestos waste disposal centre or visit [epa.nsw.gov.au](http://epa.nsw.gov.au) or search the national online database of disposal facilities at [asbestossafety.gov.au](http://asbestossafety.gov.au)

In most instances it's not practical to remove and relocate NOA. Strict controls would need to be in place throughout the entire process. A practical and cost-effective solution is to bury NOA and/or cover it to help minimise potential disturbance.

## ASBESTOS WASTE DISPOSAL

Asbestos and NOA contaminated materials (including PPE Kits) must be disposed of as asbestos waste according to regulations. Not all waste facilities are authorised to accept asbestos waste.

## DISPOSING OF NOA - ASBESTOS WASTE MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

Asbestos waste is any material that contains or may be contaminated by asbestos fibres including PPE (after use) and soil containing NOA. When disposing of NOA waste the following procedures are recommended.

1. In most instances NOA material or waste should be disposed of on-site by burying it and covering the surface with organic mulch, woodchips, soil or 100mm of rock or gravel from a NOA free source.
2. Prior to digging the hole ensure the burial site does not contain NOA.
3. If NOA material or waste requires disposal off-site then it must be transported in a sealed truck and lawfully disposed of at a NSW EPA approved disposal site.

## TRANSPORTING NOA MATERIAL: OFF-SITE

For larger jobs such as excavation of a dam or building site where the NOA may need to be transported to a licenced waste facility, it must be transported safely and recorded in the Asbestos Management Plan. Before moving NOA material off the property, contact council to ensure regulations are met including locations of licenced asbestos waste facilities, transport requirements etc.

When transporting NOA off-site you must:

1. Always contact the waste facility before transporting asbestos waste including NOA to learn if asbestos waste is accepted and any other requirements when delivering asbestos to the facility.
2. Where possible use licenced asbestos removalists to dispose of NOA waste.
3. Keep NOA wet at all times to minimise dust, before, during and after loading and unloading.
4. Ensure NOA cannot spill from the truck during transportation. A sealed vehicle must be used.
5. Wheels of all vehicles used on the site must be washed prior to leaving the site.
6. Wash down vehicles and other equipment after use.
7. Use the EPA online tool, WasteLocate. If you are involved with the transport or disposal of asbestos waste in NSW, or arranging the transport of asbestos waste in NSW, you must use EPA WasteLocate.

**WARNING: BEFORE DIGGING TO BURY NOA, ENSURE NOA IS NOT PRESENT ON THE SITE CHOSEN FOR DISPOSAL TO PREVENT DISTURBING NOA.**