



# Asbestos Awareness Toolbox Talk

## The Two Types of Asbestos Commonly Used in Construction

Project Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Presenter: \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: The two types of asbestos common in construction

Duration: \_\_\_\_\_

### What is the aim of this Toolbox Talk?

To remind workers about the two types of asbestos-containing materials (ACMs) to be wary of to prevent exposure to asbestos fibres if ACMs are disturbed and fibres are released.

### There are two types of ACMs that were common in construction: “non-friable” and “friable”.

1. **NON-FRIABLE ASBESTOS** (also known as ‘bonded’ ACMs) is material containing asbestos that is not friable asbestos including material containing asbestos fibres reinforced with a bonding compound.
  - Ⓒ Non-friable ACMs cannot be crumbled, pulverised or reduced to a powder by hand pressure when dry.
  - Ⓒ Non-Friable ACMs are unlikely to release dangerous fibres posing health risks if they remain sealed, in good, stable condition and remain undisturbed.
  - Ⓒ Products containing non-friable asbestos can be found in one third of Australian homes.

### When does non-friable asbestos become a hazard?

Non-friable ACMs CAN BECOME FRIABLE and a hazard:

- Ⓒ During work or demolition
- Ⓒ If it is damaged, unsealed and exposed to weather
- Ⓒ If damaged by fire, hail, floods or storms
- Ⓒ If high pressure water or compressed air is applied to the ACM material
- Ⓒ If ACMs are not managed safely according to regulations
- Ⓒ If damaged, ACMs must be assessed by a competent person to determine the risk

### IMPORTANT: Fire damaged ACMs are extremely dangerous!

2. **FRIABLE ASBESTOS** is extremely hazardous because the fibres are uncontained and can easily become airborne!

- Ⓒ Friable asbestos is any material containing asbestos in the form of a powder or can be crumbled, pulverised or reduced to powder by hand pressure when dry.
- Ⓒ Friable asbestos was mainly used in industrial applications and commercial or non-residential structures.

### What are some examples of friable asbestos?

- Ⓒ Fire retardants - sprayed coatings on walls and beams including steel
- Ⓒ Insulation - sprayed in building cavities
- Ⓒ Loose asbestos in ceiling or floor and riser cavities and roof spaces
- Ⓒ Textured coatings sprayed onto ceilings
- Ⓒ Pipe lagging and mill board in air conditioning heater banks and hot water system components

### Only Licenced Asbestos Removalists should remove ACMs!

There are 2 types of Asbestos Removal Licences - Class A and Class B.

- Ⓒ **Class A Licence:** can remove ALL types of asbestos including friable material.
- Ⓒ **Class B Licence:** can ONLY remove non-friable (solid) asbestos materials (such as Fibro).

**For Fact Sheets, information & ACM images visit [asbestosawareness.com.au](http://asbestosawareness.com.au) – it's not worth the risk!**

