

## Important Information About

# Asbestos

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 should I do if I find asbestos?

There's no need to panic. Most older properties will still have asbestos if they were built before 1990. It's unlikely to be a danger to your health as long as it's undisturbed. The health risk comes when the fibres are released if it's been damaged. This can be harmful to your lungs if inhaled. If you are unsure of what to do if you think your property has asbestos, give our team a ring on 01782 635200 and we can advise you.

**aspire**  
housing



## Where is it found?

Some of the places asbestos materials could be found on the interior of your home include:



Textured wall and ceiling coatings (such as artex)



Duct panels (access to pipework)



Infill panels (above, below or next to doorways and windows)



Panels behind radiators and heaters and storage radiators



Floor tiles



Insulation to boilers and water heaters



Toilet cisterns and panels under the sink



Bath panels



Panels underneath the stairs

\*These are not full lists, but include the places within homes where we may find materials that could contain asbestos.



## Our advice

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

**DO** contact us if you are concerned about asbestos

**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.



## Can I remove asbestos myself?

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

## I think I've exposed asbestos in my home what do I do?

Contact our team as soon as possible. We have specialist contractors who will come out to your property and make the area safe. If you have only disturbed a small amount of asbestos the cause for concern will be low but it is very important not to disturb any asbestos in your home.

## What do I do if I want to make changes to my property?

If you are planning any DIY on your property and you think you may disturb suspect materials, be sure to contact our team prior. We will be able to tell you beforehand if your property may contain asbestos. It's really important you contact us before any DIY project just to be safe.

**It can be hard to recognise what asbestos looks like as it comes in so many forms. From insulation to floor tiling, across pipework and more so if you are in doubt - just leave it undisturbed and get advice. We are here to help.**

**If you need advice on asbestos in your home call our team on  
01782 635200**