

## ASBESTOS

Asbestos was mined in Australia for over 100 years and Australia was the highest user of asbestos per person in the 1950's.

### Products that may contain Asbestos

The most accurate way to determine if your fibro contains asbestos is to arrange for a licenced asbestos removal contractor to inspect and test it. You cannot tell by just looking at the material.

Only fibro products made before 1987 contain asbestos. In NSW the use of asbestos was discontinued in fibro sheets by 1982, in corrugated sheets by 1984, and in all other products by 1986.

The manufacture and use of asbestos in products was banned nationally from December 2003.

### Asbestos was commonly used in

- Cement sheeting fibro;
- Drainage and flue pipes;
- Roofing, guttering and flexible building boards e.g. villa-board, Hardiflex etc.;
- Brakes, clutches and gaskets;
- In the 1960's and 70's loose fibre asbestos were used in some parts of NSW as home roof insulation.

### Health Problems from Asbestos

Asbestos is a known carcinogen. The inhalation of asbestos fibres can cause mesothelioma, lung cancer and asbestosis. Asbestos poses a risk to health by inhalation whenever asbestos fibres become airborne.

- This can be through cutting or drilling of asbestos containing products or by water blasting roofs which contain asbestos sheeting.
- The symptoms of the above mentioned disease do not usually appear until about 20-30 years after the first exposure to asbestos.

### Licensing Requirement for Removing Asbestos

- A bonded asbestos licence AS2 is required to remove more than 10m<sup>2</sup> of bonded asbestos. Refer WorkCover link.
- A Friable asbestos licence AS1 is required to remove friable asbestos (broken/powdered burnt Asbestos product) refer to WorkCover link.

### Legislative requirements Asbestos

WorkCover: Deal with the handling and storage of asbestos at worksites (OH&S Regulation)

### Councils and Department of Environmental, Climate Change and Water

Are the responsible Authorities for the storage, disposal and transport of asbestos at non-worksites (Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997) (and Contaminated Land Management Act 1997).

You must comply with the following in regards to Asbestos:

- Waste must be stored on a premises in an environmentally safe manner.
- Bonded asbestos\* material must be securely packaged at all times.
- Friable asbestos\* material must be kept in a sealed container.
- Asbestos-contaminated soils must be wetted down.
- All asbestos waste must be disposed of at a landfill site that can lawfully receive this waste.
- It is illegal to dispose of asbestos waste in domestic garbage bins.
- It is also illegal to re-use, recycle or illegally dump asbestos products.

### Disposal

- Prior arrangement is to be made with Council's waste facility operator prior to transporting asbestos to any waste disposal depot.

\* **bonded asbestos material** means any material (other than friable asbestos material) that contains asbestos.

\* **friable asbestos material** means any material that contains asbestos and is the form of a powder or can be crumbled, pulverised or reduced to powder by hand pressure when dry.

#### For further information and advice on Asbestos contact:

KEMPSEY SHIRE COUNCIL  
22 Tozer Street, West Kempsey  
Ph (02) 6566 3200 Fax (02) 6566 3205  
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## Useful Links

- Fibro and Asbestos – A Renovator and Homeowner’s Guide NSW ...**  
The guide is also in pdf format – **Fibro & Asbestos – A renovator and ... Changes to the asbestos Laws. The NSW Government is amending the ...**  
[www.nsw.gov.au/fibro](http://www.nsw.gov.au/fibro)

**Asbestos and Health Risks Factsheet – NSW Department of Health**  
21 Dec 2007 ...Asbestos fibres can pose a risk to health if airborne, as inhalation is the main way that asbestos enters the body.  
[www.health.nsw.gov.au/factsheets/environmental/asbestos\\_fs.html](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/factsheets/environmental/asbestos_fs.html)
- Fibro and Asbestos – Frequently asked Questions NSW Government**  
Asbestos is the generic term for a number of fibrous silicate minerals. Products made from **asbestos** cement – bonded **asbestos** material – include fibro ...  
[www.nsw.gov.au/fibro-and-asbestos-frequently-asked-questions](http://www.nsw.gov.au/fibro-and-asbestos-frequently-asked-questions)
- WorkCover Authority of New South Wales – Asbestos**  
18 Feb 2010 ... Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral fibre which withstands heat ... **asbestos** can cause lung diseases, including cancer and for this ...  
[www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/healthsafetytopics\Asbestos](http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/healthsafetytopics\Asbestos)
- WorkCover Authority of New South Wales – Asbestos licensing**  
15 Feb 2010 ... A bonded **asbestos** licence is required to remove, repair or disturb more than 10 square metres of bonded **asbestos** material such as fibro ...  
[www.health.nsw.gov.au/licensing/.../Asbestoslicensing/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/licensing/.../Asbestoslicensing/Pages/default.aspx)
- (PDF) Working with Asbestos: Guide**  
File Format: PDF/Adobe Acrobat – Quick View  
Asbestos is a generic term of fibrous silicate minerals. The two major groups are: the serpentine group, containing chrysolite (white **asbestos**);...  
[www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/.../working\\_with\\_asbestos\\_guide\\_5484%5B1%5D.pdf](http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/.../working_with_asbestos_guide_5484%5B1%5D.pdf)
- DECC Safety disposing of asbestos waste**  
14 May 2009...The handling and storage of asbestos waste at worksites is... It is illegal to dispose of **asbestos** waste in domestic garbage bins...
- Fibro and Asbestos – First Steps Checklist NSW Government**  
The most accurate way to find out if your fibro contains asbestos is to have a licensed **asbestos** removal contractor inspect and test it. ...  
[www.nsw.gov.au/fibro-and-asbestos-first-steps-checklist](http://www.nsw.gov.au/fibro-and-asbestos-first-steps-checklist)

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