

## DISPOSAL OF ASBESTOS CONTAINING MATERIAL

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### What is Asbestos?

Asbestos is a fibrous mineral capable of disintegrating into airborne, respiratable fibres, which present a health hazard.

### Dangers associated with asbestos

Asbestos was used in a variety of places from the 1940's to early 1990's. If you are considering renovating and your house was built between these years get some advice on how to safely remove the asbestos containing material as it is likely that asbestos was used in some form.

If the asbestos gets broken up releasing the tiny fibres that cannot be seen with the naked eye, and you breath the dust and fibres it is likely that within 40 years you may die or be dying of malignant mesothelioma, lung cancer or asbestosis. Every precaution should be taken to avoid breathing the asbestos.

### Asbestos Wastes

There are 2 broad categories:-

- **Bonded products** in which the asbestos is tightly bound into a cementitious or resinous matrix. Fibro sheets and pipes, fire resistant insulation boards, brake discs and pads, vinyl floor coverings are examples. Bonded products do not constitute a health hazard unless asbestos fibres are released and become airborne.
- **Fibrous products** where asbestos is not firmly encapsulated in a matrix and therefore is more prone than bonded products to release airborne fibres. Sprayed asbestos ceilings, thermal lagging and fire protective clothing are examples.

Asbestos wastes may be in the form of loose fibres, dust, floor sweeping, swarf, sheets, boards, pipes, moulded products contaminated packaging, sludges, and slurries.

Major sources of asbestos wastes arise from the demolition of old buildings, dismantling of plant, delagging of thermally insulated boilers, breaking up of ships.

Transport and final disposal of asbestos material should be carried out in such a way as to prevent the release of asbestos fibres. Because there is a risk of the asbestos-cement waste breaking down resulting in airborne asbestos fibres contamination, all asbestos materials are to be disposed of at an approved site which is under control of a local authority. [*Workplace Health and Safety Regulation 1997*]

## Disposal

Roof and wall unbroken sheeting should be placed in heavy duty 0.2 mm thick polyethylene sheeting and double wrapped and sealed with tape for disposal.

Broken sheeting and associated waste should be placed directly into disposal bins that have been double lined with polyethylene sheeting and sealed for removal or double bagged in heavy duty 0.2 mm thick polyethylene plastic bags. The bags should be no larger than 1200 mm x 900 mm. To make handling and sealing easier, the bag should only be partially filled and "ASBESTOS" written on the outside of the bags indicating the contents. [*Workplace Health and Safety Regulation 1997*]

### Procedures for Disposal of Asbestos Wastes

1. All asbestos waste for Landfill disposal must be double wrapped or double bagged in heavy duty 0.2 mm polyethylene sheeting and tape sealed (damaged sheeting or bags will not be accepted) and clearly marked 'ASBESTOS'.
2. At least 24 hours notice must be given prior to the required disposal time, stating type of asbestos waste, quantity, owner of material and contractor (if applicable).
3. Asbestos from Domestic sources under 10 square metres in quantity can be disposed of at any time during normal operational hours without prior notice.
4. Asbestos waste can only be accepted at Maryborough Recycling Centre and Landfill. Asbestos waste cannot be dumped at any other Landfill or Transfer Station site. Contact Fraser Coast Regional Council on ☎ 1300 794 929 for more information during business hours.
5. The appropriate disposal fees must be paid to the Gatekeeper, at Maryborough Landfill, and a Regulated Waste Form must be completed prior to disposal of the asbestos waste.
6. Transport – the transport of asbestos should comply with the Australian "Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods" (ADG Code).
7. Further information is available. "Asbestos the Home Renovators Guide" can be downloaded at [www.health.qld.gov.au/asbestos](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/asbestos) or by contacting Queensland Health ☎ 1300 744 636 or for Workplace Health and Safety Legislation in relation to asbestos contact the Division of Workplace Health and Safety, 63 Ellena Street, Maryborough, ☎ 4121 1714 or fax 4121 1704.
8. As a general rule, any fibrous sheeting (roof or wall) on a building built before 1990 should be regarded as asbestos.