

FACT SHEET - Guide to Handling and Disposing of Household Asbestos

Asbestos comes in a variety of forms all of which are considered to be regulated (hazardous) waste. Exposure to Asbestos can cause life threatening health conditions.

It is a Legislative requirement for asbestos to be handled and disposed of in a safe and approved manner, and there are significant fines which can be imposed if any of these Laws are breached.

HANDLING ASBESTOS

Below are listed some helpful documents and where you can obtain these documents.

- *ASBESTOS: A guide to householders and the general public* (www.health.qld.gov.au or call 1300 744 636)
- *Is it safe? Cracked, damaged or weathered asbestos cement sheeting* (www.health.qld.gov.au/asbestos or call 1300 744 636)
- *Asbestos A guide for minor renovation* (www.qld.gov.au/workplace or call 13 74 68)

If you suspect a product contains asbestos, treat it as if it is asbestos.

Minimum requirements –

- Wear suitable Personal Protective Equipment such as disposable overalls, dust mask/respirator)
- Avoid handling asbestos in windy conditions – all persons to work upwind.
- Ensure that persons in proximity of work area are restricted to those who are actually assisting with the task.
- Wet the product down as soon as possible and prior to disturbing, with a low pressure water supply (i.e. garden hose, watering can, bucket, spray bottle)
- Double bag in heavy duty 0.2mm polyethylene sheeting and seal the bagging so as to prevent any air born particles from escaping and any contaminated items (such as rags, clothing etc).

TRANSPORT AND DISPOSAL OF ASBESTOS

Under Government Legislations (Qld Code of Practice for how to Safely Remove Asbestos 2011; Queensland Workplace Health & Safety Act 2011, Queensland Workplace Health and Safety Regulation 2011; Queensland Environmental Protection Act 1994; Queensland Environmental Protection regulation 2008) - Householders (non-commercial operators) are:

- Required to handle asbestos in a safe and approved manner.
- Limited to transporting a maximum of 250kg (10m²) of asbestos product.
- Recommended to contact Council regarding disposal terms such as -
 - ✓ Waste Facilities authorised to accept asbestos
 - ✓ Times asbestos will be accepted
 - ✓ Packaging of asbestos and contaminated items
 - ✓ Fees for disposal
- Required to declare asbestos when disposing of waste.
- Following directions given at Waste Disposal Facilities to ensure the safe disposal of asbestos.

FOR ALL QUANTITIES OVER 250kg (10m²) PER JOB – YOU MUST ENGAGE AN AUTHORISED COMMERCIAL OPERATOR.