

Asbestos Removal

A licence is required in Western Australia for the removal of materials that contain asbestos when it consists of any friable asbestos or more than 10 square metres of bonded non-friable asbestos.

It has been recognised for many years that asbestos is a hazardous substance. The people who work with asbestos must be trained in the safe way of handling and transporting the material.

There are two types of licence:

1. Unrestricted: which allows people to remove all forms of asbestos (friable and non-friable) and replaces the current asbestos removal licence
2. Restricted: Commencing June 2010 and allows people to remove amounts exceeding 10 square metres of bonded (non-friable) asbestos.

Asbestos may be found in the following products:

- Asbestos cement products such as building materials ('fibro'),
- fences,
- switchboards and roofing
- Sprayed on insulation and acoustic applications
- Buildings, ships and other structures
- Vinyl asbestos tiles
- Heater banks (air-conditioning ducts)
- Roofing felts
- Suspended ceiling tiles
- Friction materials (brake pads, shoes. etc)
- Industrial gaskets
- Naturally occurring ores/soils

All asbestos waste should be removed by a competent person. Transport and disposal of asbestos waste must be in accordance with all relevant State legislation and guidelines. Regulation 5.52 requires that asbestos waste is disposed of in accordance with Part 11 of the [Code of Practice for Management and Control of Asbestos in Workplaces \[NOHSC: 2018\(2005\)\]](#). The Waste Management division of the Department of Environment and Conservation can advise on disposal sites; contact (08) 6364 6500, or go to www.dec.wa.gov.au.

All people involved with asbestos removal must wear disposable coveralls and a class P1 or P2 disposable respirator. Appendix C of the [Code of Practice for the Safe Removal of Asbestos 2nd edition \[NOHSC: 2002\(2005\)\]](#) contains further guidance on selection of respiratory personal protective equipment for different tasks involving asbestos.

Tools used to remove bonded asbestos products such as asbestos cement sheeting must be non – powered or be a portable power tool incorporating dust suppression or dust extraction attachments designed to collect asbestos fibres. Further information on tools is available in part 9 of the [Code of Practice for the Safe Removal of Asbestos 2nd edition \[NOHSC: 2002\(2005\)\]](#).

All of the information provided above has been copied from the following website:
http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/WorkSafe/Content/Safety_Topics/Asbestos