

Asbestos in the Community

EHPA

Darren Watson

Inspector

WorkSafe Victoria

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What is Asbestos?

- Naturally occurring fibrous mineral
- Excellent tensile strength, heat and chemical resistance



Crocidolite
(blue)



Chrysotile
(white)



Amosite
(brown)

Forms of Asbestos

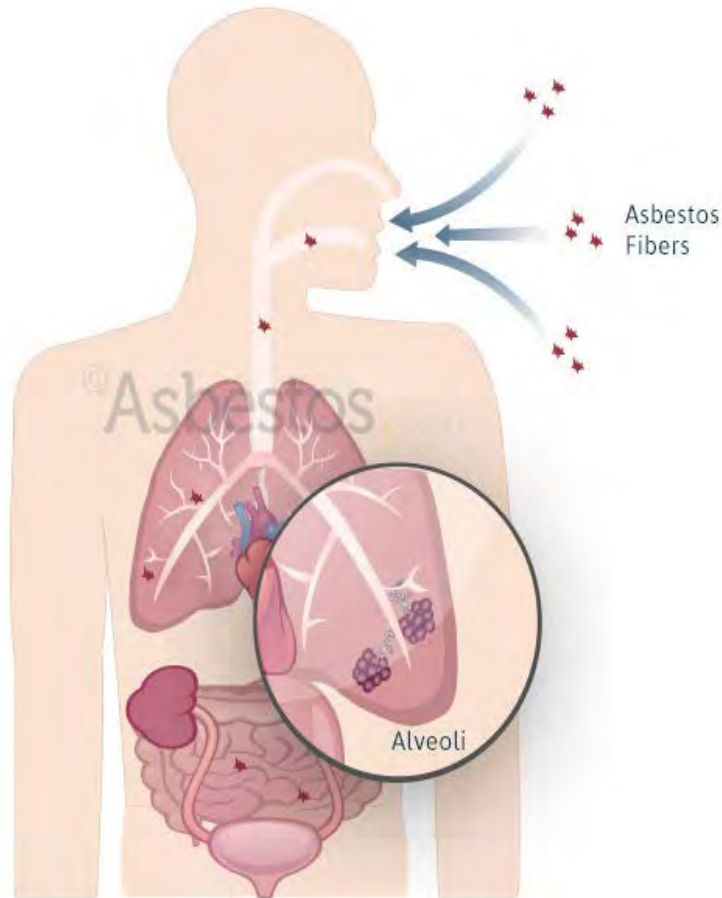
Friable: hand pressure can reduce to powder when dry eg. pipe lagging



Non-friable: bonded/mixed with cement or similar material eg. AC products, vinyl tiles



Health Hazards of asbestos



Risk from inhalation and of respirable fibres

- Asbestosis
- Lung Cancer
- Mesothelioma

Lag time of 20 to 50 years
(from initial exposure)

Victoria 2013: 123 diagnosed with mesothelioma

Risk to health from asbestos



- **Need to consider various factors:**

- > Friable vs non-friable

- > Condition

- Weathered

- Damaged

- > Duration of exposure

- > Repeated exposure

- > Concentration - exposure standard is 0.1 fibres/ml (averaged over an 8 hour day)

- **It's all about inhalation of the fibres**

Cases ...

Types of asbestos containing material (ACM)



- Asbestos cement (AC) roofs & walls
- AC electrical fuse/switch boards
- AC flues
- AC moulded prods – gutters, capping's, etc.
- AC sheet underlay for vinyl
- AC drain pipes
- Cement render
- Electric heat banks – block insulation
- Floor vinyl sheet
- Floor vinyl tiles
- Fuse surrounds in switches
- Millboard between heating units and lining switchboxes
- Plaster & plaster cornice adhesives
- Sealant or mastic on windows
- Tilux sheeting in place of ceramic tiles in bathrooms











Asbestos checklist – consider ...



Consider engaging a competent person to draft you a checklist focusing on areas you generally work in. For houses:

- House built pre 1990
- Linoleum
- Vinyl tiles
- Glue beneath tiles (black)
- Cement sheet like material beneath tiles
- Eaves
- Guttering
- Wall sheets in wet areas – kitchen, laundry, toilet
- Corrugated roof sheets (super 6)
- Cladding on a garage or shed
- Switchboard, old fuses
- Boiler (hot water tank) flues
- ...

When must you have a licence to remove ACM?



Licence required* when ACM is:

- > friable – any amount; or
- > non-friable and is greater than 10 square metres; or
- > non-friable and will take more than 1 hour in total (per job and week for company)

Class A licence – allows removal of all forms of ACM

Class B licence – allows removal of only non-friable ACM

Licensed removalists available on the WorkSafe Victoria website www.worksafe.vic.gov.au

* Not required if homeowner undertakes their own removal

Licensed removal work – Notification & Clearance Certificates



- All licensed removal work must be notified to WorkSafe
- Any removal of:
 - friable ACM OR
 - non-friable ACM greater than 10 square metresrequires a Clearance Certificate before the area can be re-occupied
- Clearance Certificate must state **there is no visible asbestos residue** (if friable removed – must also include air monitoring)
- Clearance Certificate must be
 - obtained by removalist if the removalist was engaged by homeowner
 - obtained by employer who engaged removalist in all other cases
 - issued by a competent **independent person** – e.g. hygienist

Permitted unlicensed removal

That is less than 10 sqm of non-friable ACM that takes less than 1 hour to remove



- **Must still be adequately trained and have controls in place**
- **Controls include:**
 - > Respirator with P1 or P2 filters (or disposable P1 or P2 mask)
 - > Coveralls – type 5
 - > Segregate/isolate the removal area
 - > No brooms – use damp rags or an industrial HEPA vacuum cleaner
 - > No power tools – only hand tools
 - > No unnecessary breaking
 - > Do not spread asbestos contamination
 - > Double wrap in thick (200 micron) plastic
 - > Do not re-use disposable mask or coveralls
 - > Dispose of waste at an EPA licensed landfill

If your not sure, don't risk it.

Ask someone

- www.asbestos.vic.gov.au check it out before you do your next job
- **WorkSafe Advisory Service 1800 136 089** – for advice or complaints
- www.worksafe.vic.gov.au – all Occupational Health and Safety information
- www.epa.vic.gov.au - for licensed landfills that accept asbestos
- [Your local Council](#)- for non workplace asbestos issues.
- www.nata.com.au for **NATA** accredited analysts to identify asbestos (across Australia)

Which Agency has responsibility



- **Workplace – WorkSafe Victoria**
- **Workplace & Transport – WorkSafe Victoria & EPA**
- **Non Workplace – Local council**
- **Non Workplace & dumping – Local Council & EPA**
- **Fire Damaged building – Fire Brigade, WorkSafe & local council**
- **Home Owner removing asbestos – Local Council**

QUESTIONS?