



## Building Information Sheet

# BS10 – Asbestos

July 2010

### Information Guide

- Asbestos is a fibrous cement product manufactured in WA between 1921 and 1987, and is commonly found in roofing, exterior wall cladding, fencing, thermal boards around fireplaces, water or flue pipes and insulation on hot water pipes.
- It is an offence to sell, give away or supply second-hand asbestos material.
- Generally, a person cannot determine whether a material contains asbestos simply by looking at it. Analytical laboratory examination is required for confirmation. If in doubt, treat suspect material as though it does contain asbestos.
- Exposure to asbestos fibres can cause: Asbestosis, Pleural Plaque, Lung Cancer or Mesothelioma. The risk depends on the number of fibres inhaled.
- Undisturbed asbestos cement products (known as non-friable or bonded asbestos) do not pose a health risk and the fibres are bound together in a solid cement matrix. There is no need to remove or coat asbestos materials because of health concerns. However, if the material is damaged or disturbed, fibres may be released into the air.

### Removal and Disposal

When removing asbestos products, it is strongly recommended that specialist asbestos removal contractors are engaged. **Removal of more than 10m<sup>2</sup> of bonded asbestos product (building material) requires a registered asbestos license holder to do the works.** Licence holders are registered with Worksafe WA – go to [www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe](http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe) for details. The contractor must comply with the requirements of the *Occupation Safety and Health Act 1984* and Regulations. Any person removing asbestos must undertake all reasonable measures to ensure asbestos fibres do not present a risk to other and themselves. This includes compliance with the *health (Asbestos) Regulations 1992*, and the following general precautions taken:

- Wear suitable personal protective equipment (P1 or P2 respirator, disposable gloves, safety goggles, disposable coveralls).
- Gently spray the asbestos with water or a PVA solution to minimise dust creation (beware that an asbestos cement roof can be slippery when wet).
- Remove asbestos cement products with minimal breakage, and never throw or drop any removed products.
- Take care not to skid one sheet over another, as this will release asbestos fibres.
- Powered hand tools must not be used, except for removal of screws.
- Asbestos must be separated from other waste material.
- Stack the asbestos cement sheeting on 0.2mm thick polythene sheeting. Wrap the plastic around the materials and seal for disposal, or place directly into a polythene-lined bin and seal for disposal.
- Label or mark the bundles with the words “CAUTION ASBESTOS” in lettering at least 40cm high.
- Clean up any residue material using a wet mop or vacuum cleaner fitted with a HEPA (High Efficiency Particulate Air) filter. Do not use an ordinary household vacuum cleaner.
- Dispose of asbestos material at an approved landfill site. A list of these sites is available from the Department of Environmental Protection. The landfill site should be contacted in advance with details including quantity of material.

### Local Disposal

A limited amount of asbestos waste material can be managed at Davis Road Rubbish Tip (P 97576 077) The tip requires 24 hours notice prior to delivery and should be contacted regarding current maximum quantities and applicable fees. Further Information is available at [www.population.health.wa.gov.au](http://www.population.health.wa.gov.au)