

DIY ASBESTOS HANDLING + DISPOSAL

Fact Sheet

Purpose

This fact sheet outlines some useful information about domestic DIY Asbestos handling and disposal.

Background

Asbestos was commonly used in building materials due to its durability, fire resistance and insulation properties and there are a great many developed centres like Bridgetown and Greenbushes that have a considerable volume of asbestos fibre, in the form of asbestos cement products, such as roof sheeting, cladding, ceiling material. Fencing material, etc.

Asbestos cement products typically contain 10-15 percent asbestos fibre by weight and were commonly manufactured in WA from 1921 to 1987.

The use of crocidolite (blue asbestos), ceased in 1966, the use of amosite (brown asbestos) ceased in May 1984 and the use of chrysotile (white asbestos) was phased out between 1981 and 1987.

Manufacturing of all asbestos products ceased in 1987.

Asbestos Handling and disposal

In Western Australia homeowners are permitted to remove a maximum of 10 square meters of bonded asbestos, although, we recommend using a licenced asbestos removalist. Anything over 10 square meters or **ANY** loose or friable asbestos **MUST** be removed by a qualified asbestos removalist and cannot be removed by the homeowner.

Even if you follow all the safety procedures to remove asbestos yourself, it is much safer and easier to engage a licensed asbestos removalist who is fully trained, insured and equipped to prevent or minimise exposure to asbestos. It often works out cheaper, too!

Never use power tools to drill, cut, sand or remove materials contacting asbestos, as this will release asbestos fibres. Never use a high-pressure cleaner to clean asbestos roofing or cladding. Always wear correct PPE when handling asbestos products. Refer to the link below for all your DIY requirements and information.

The Bridgetown Waste Facility can only accept small amounts of asbestos, a maximum of 0.2m³ at a time. Fees for the handling of asbestos products is in accordance with Council's Annual Fees & Charges.

Transport and presentation of asbestos must be according to the Environment Protection (Controlled Waste) Regulations 2004 as follows:

- Separated from other material for disposal where that is reasonably practicable.
- Wrapped in builder's construction grade plastic (200um), taped (preferably with duct tape) and placed on a pallet.
- Wrapping must be in a manner that prevents asbestos entering the atmosphere during transportation.
- Clearly labelled as "CAUTION ASBESTOS" with lettering at least 50mm high.

For more information please visit:

<https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/asbestos-frequently-asked-questions>

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