



Asbestos safety

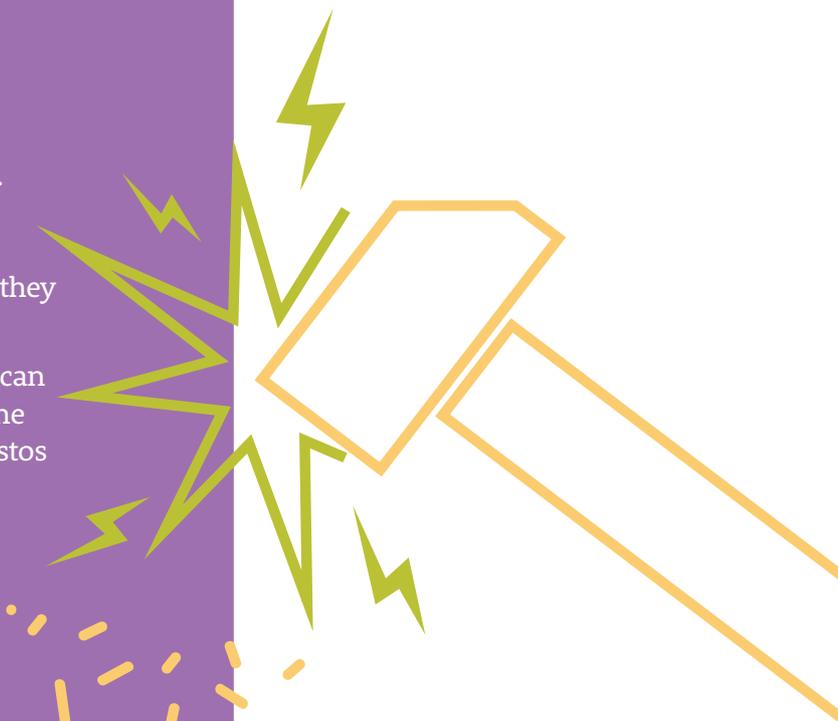
Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral found in many common household building materials like floor and ceiling tiles. It's also used in fire proofing solutions and insulation. It can be found in any building built or refurbished before the year 2000. Asbestos is usually safe, but it can become harmful if it's damaged or disturbed.

Here you'll find all you need to know about:

- The risks of asbestos in your home
- How we will help to keep your home safe
- What you can do.

What are the risks?

- As long as it's in a good condition, and is not damaged or disturbed, there is very little risk. The levels of asbestos in your home are not likely to be harmful. However, if any asbestos-containing materials are damaged, they can become a danger to health.
- Breathing in air that contains asbestos fibres can lead to serious illness, particularly affecting the lungs and chest lining. Past exposure to asbestos can even kill
- This risk arises when materials containing asbestos are damaged, drilled, cut, sanded or scrubbed.



What we will do to keep your home safe

- We inspect homes and communal areas built before the year 2000 to check for asbestos (around a fifth of our homes) and make sure any that's found is in a safe condition
- We employ specially trained surveyors to carry out these asbestos surveys. We have a register to tell us where asbestos is and its condition. Our surveyors also know what signs to look for and will report any material they suspect contains asbestos to us
- We inspect homes every two or four years depending on risk, and communal areas once a year
- If asbestos has been found where you live, we'll tell you where it's located in your home and give you advice on the 'dos and don'ts'
- We'll sometimes remove asbestos if we're completing major work or where it's found to be damaged. If it's not found damaged, we'll leave it alone.



What you can do to help

It's difficult for anyone not specially trained to recognise asbestos in materials, so leave that to us.

Call us
08458 729 729



- Once we've told you about any asbestos contained in your home, please make sure you don't disturb it - don't drill, sand, saw or disturb any material that you know or think might contain asbestos
- Please give us a call to speak to us before you decorate or carry out other DIY work in your home. You won't be able to do any DIY work to areas known to contain asbestos
- If you are able to go ahead with DIY, a top tip is to soak wallpaper before removing it, ideally with a steam stripper. This is because asbestos is less likely to become airborne if materials that contain it are wet
- Don't try to remove textured coating from walls or ceilings, or old floor tiles. Lay new floor coverings over the top of old ones
- Don't throw away anything that you think might contain asbestos in your day to day rubbish, call us first
- If you suspect that asbestos has been damaged or you think there's asbestos that hasn't been identified, please get in touch with us by calling **08458 729 729**. We'll treat it as a priority and arrange a visit.