

Your guide to **Asbestos**



Why was Asbestos used?

What is Asbestos?

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral (a fibrous silicate) made up of many small fibres. It is mined from rock and milled into fibres from which a wide range of materials were produced. It has been used commercially for about 150 years because it is strong, flexible, and stable.



Why was it used?

Asbestos was used because the fibres are strong and resistant to heat and chemicals. This led to their widespread use in a wide range of building materials and products, particularly during the 1960s and 1970s. Asbestos was often used as fireproofing but also as a general building material.

Asbestos materials pose little risk unless they are disturbed in some way that allows the fibres to be released into the atmosphere. This will occur if the asbestos-containing material is drilled, sanded, cut or broken up, but could also occur if it is in a poor or damaged condition.

Could I be exposed?

Where is Asbestos most likely to be found in the home?

Building materials containing asbestos were widely used from 1930 to the mid-1980s, but particularly from the 1960s onwards. Therefore, all types of buildings constructed or refurbished around this time may contain asbestos materials.

Asbestos has also been used in some heat-resistant household products, such as:

- Oven Gloves
- Simmering Mats
- Ironing Boards

The use of Asbestos in these products decreased greatly around the mid-1980s. Since 1999 the use of asbestos in most products has been banned.

Why is Asbestos potentially a problem?

There are asbestos-containing materials in about 5.5 million buildings in the UK. Because Asbestos has been so widely used, there is a very low level of Asbestos fibres in the air everywhere. Yet the risk to the general public from asbestos in the home is low.

If you have any concerns, please call our Contact Centre on 01246 217670 or visit www.rykneldhomes.org.uk

Health Risks

What are the health risks?

Although asbestos is a hazardous material, it can only pose a risk to health if the asbestos is disturbed and the fibres become airborne and are inhaled. When asbestos containing materials are damaged or deteriorate with age, they can release these fibres into the air.



Risk Assessment

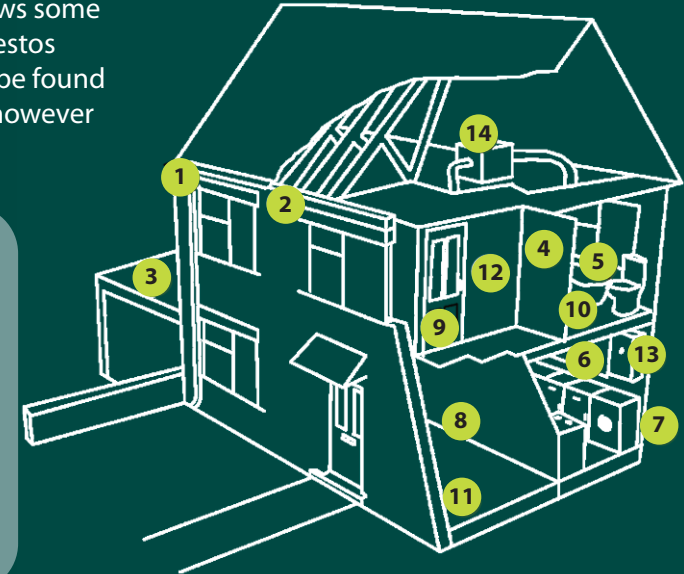
Works undertaken in tenant's homes by Rykneld Homes will include a risk assessment to check whether it is likely the work will disturb asbestos. Where asbestos may be disturbed or is found to be damaged, it will be managed safely either by encapsulation, or removal by appropriately trained specialist contractors.



Where could it be?

Asbestos in the home

The illustration below shows some common areas where asbestos containing materials may be found in and around the home, however the list is not all-inclusive.



Exterior

1. Gutters and down pipes
2. Soffits and Fascias
3. Garage roofing and shed sheets, tiles or roofing felt

Interior

4. Partition Walls
5. Panels beneath windows
6. Cupboards around domestic boilers
7. Panels behind electrical equipment
8. Panels behind fires or heaters
9. Panels on or inside fire doors
10. Bath panels
11. Floor tiles
12. Textured coatings (Artex)
13. Gaskets and rope seals inside gas and solid fuel appliances
14. Cold water storage tanks

DIY Work

Carrying out DIY

DIY work can disturb asbestos containing materials causing brief but high levels of exposure.

If you think a material might contain asbestos then **do not disturb it**.

This is why you must request permission from Rykneld Homes before carrying out work in your home



Do Not:

- Carry out any DIY works on any Asbestos Containing Material (ACM)
- Disturb any ACM
- Drill into any ACM
- Scrape or sand any ACM
- Attempt to remove any ACM.



If in doubt, please call our Contact Centre on 01246 217670 or visit www.rykneldhomes.org.uk

Additional Information

Asbestos Register

Rykneld Homes will provide you with the information in the asbestos register for your home upon request.

You can contact us on

01246 217670 to request this information, for additional methods of contacting us please see the back of this booklet.



Asbestos materials removed under controlled circumstances.

Contacts

Rykneld Homes

Contact Centre:

Tel 01246 217670

Website:

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