

a11

asbestos essentials

Non-licensed tasks

Essential information

Important: You must read sheet a0 *Introduction to asbestos essentials*

Also read the following sheets:

em0 Risk assessments and plans of work

em1 What to do if you discover or accidentally disturb asbestos during your work

em2 Information, instruction and training

em5 Wetting asbestos materials

em6 Personal protective equipment (including RPE)

em7 Using damp rags to clean surfaces of minor asbestos contamination

em8 Personal decontamination

em9 Disposal of asbestos waste

Removing asbestos cement (AC) debris

What this sheet covers

This sheet describes good practice when you need to clear up AC. This includes decontamination following a fire. Clean-up after a fire will always be notifiable non-licensed work (NNLW) – see sheet a0 *Introduction to asbestos essentials*.

This sheet is *not* appropriate for cleaning debris from damaged asbestos lagging, insulation or insulating board. Use an HSE-licensed contractor for such work.

For fly-tipped AC waste, see sheet a38.

Preparing the work area

- Ensure safe access.
- Restrict access – minimise the number of people present.
- Close doors. Use tape and notices to warn others.
- Ensure adequate lighting.

Equipment

- Warning tape and notices
- Scoop, trowel or scraper
- Adhesive tape
- Garden-type sprayer containing wetting agent
- Bucket of water and rags
- Asbestos waste bag
- Clear polythene bag

Personal protective equipment (PPE) – see sheet em6

- Provide:
 - disposable overalls fitted with a hood;
 - boots without laces (laced boots are hard to decontaminate);
 - A respirator is not normally required if there are only a few pieces of contamination in a small area, or the pieces are damp.
- For larger or heavily contaminated areas, a respirator is required.



Caution

AC roofs are always fragile and cannot bear weight.

Other hazards

Work at height – see www.hse.gov.uk/work-at-height. Take precautions to avoid falls.

Work on fragile roofs – see www.hse.gov.uk/construction. Fragile roofs cannot bear weight.

There may be other hazards – you need to consider them all.

Caution

Make sure the debris is AC only.



AC debris is common

Procedure

- Clean up visible contamination in occupied areas, eg houses and gardens nearby. In large contaminated areas, eg following a fire, you may be unable to remove all the AC.
- Dampen the AC debris with spray.
- Pick up larger pieces of debris. Put them in the asbestos waste bag.
- For debris on rough surfaces, keep it damp and scoop or scrape it into the asbestos waste bag.
- Clean contaminated surfaces with damp rags, then put these in the asbestos waste bag.
- Press adhesive tape onto small dust deposits, then put the tape in the asbestos waste bag.
- If necessary, repair the AC – see sheet a13.
- Put used rags and other waste in the asbestos waste bag and tape it closed.
- Put the asbestos waste bag in a clear polythene bag and tape it closed.
- Disposal – see sheet em9.

Personal decontamination

See sheet em8.

Clearance and checking off

- Visually inspect the area to make sure that it has been cleaned properly.
- Clearance air sampling is not normally required.
- Get the premises owner, dutyholder or client to check off the job.

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