

## **ADVICE TO HOUSEHOLDERS**

### **SAFETY PRECAUTIONS DURING REMOVAL OF ASBESTOS - CEMENT SHEETING FROM GARAGES, SHED AND OTHER LOCATIONS IN THE OPEN AIR**

Asbestos-cement [products usually](#) hard durable material, usually containing 10-15% Chrysotile (White Asbestos). It is considered to pose a lower health risk because it has a relatively low proportion of asbestos [with the asbestos fibres held securely in the cement](#). It may be found as corrugated sheets of various profiles, as flat sheets and as specially shaped details for use as valleys, ridges, eaves etc., associated with a roof. There may be asbestos-cement gutters and rainwater pipes, soil stacks and flues.

**It should be noted that in most cases only asbestos cement products can be removed without the use of specialist asbestos removal contractors. Your main problem will be disposing of the waste asbestos-cement sheeting. It would be a good idea to sort this out before you start work. See notes on the rear of this page.**

The following simple safety precautions will enable you to safely remove this asbestos-cement from sheds and garages.

#### **Protective Clothing and Mask must be worn.**

1. Keep everyone else away from the work. You don't want children around when you are knocking down a garage or shed. [A suitable FFP3 dust mask must be worn](#). Do not go onto the roof unless you use crawling boards or roof ladders. Asbestos-cement is brittle and you may fall through. It also becomes very slippery when wet - another reason to use a roof ladder.
2. Use a hose to get the asbestos-cement really wet - both inside and outside. Do not brush or scrape moss, lichen or algae growing on the roof sheets; doing so may release asbestos fibres.
3. You must be careful with any silt in the bottom of gutters. Remember - this has come from the asbestos-cement roof and will probably contain a high percentage of free asbestos fibre. Get it wet and then scrape it into a strong plastic bag. Seal it and dispose of with the waste asbestos-cement.
4. You can then unbolt or unscrew the asbestos-cement sheets. It may be necessary to hacksaw through fittings or drill away screw or nail heads, this should be done only if absolutely necessary. Sheets can then be removed while unnecessary breakage of the material must be avoided. If breakage occurs, any small pieces must be damped down, picked up and double bagged in heavy duty polythene bags for later collection and **MARKED** Asbestos.
5. [Whilst the breaking of asbestos-cement panels and sheets should be avoided, if it is essential then panels or sheets should be saturated with water, and broken carefully. Panels or sheets should not be cut with hand tools, especially power tools.](#)
6. Keep the area clear of pieces of broken asbestos-cement. Under no circumstances must

they be crushed underfoot. Wash down the area when you have finished. Wash yourself thoroughly on completion of the job or before eating or drinking.

Removal of asbestos-cement from sheds or garages will give no risk to health from the release of asbestos fibres providing the above instructions are followed.

If any advice or assistance is needed, Please contact:

Environmental Protection Team

Sevenoaks District Council

P O Box 182

Argyle Road

Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1GP (01732 227000)

Or see the website: [www.sevenoaks.gov.uk](http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk)

This advice assumes that you have already removed the asbestos materials from inside the house, or wherever else they occur. [If you require advice beyond that contained here, seek advice from a suitably qualified surveyor, a licensed asbestos removal contractor or the Environmental Health Department.](#)

## **SAFE DISPOSAL OF WASTE ASBESTOS - CEMENT MATERIALS**

The following simple safety precautions will enable you to safely prepare these materials for disposal.

1. Work in the open air. Keep everyone else away from the work. You don't want children around when you are messing around with asbestos. Use a hose to get the asbestos-cement really wet. Do not brush the material or scrape off moss, lichen or algae; doing so may release asbestos fibres.
2. The asbestos-cement should be handled in whole pieces; unnecessary breakage of the material must be avoided. If breakage occurs, any small pieces must be damped down, picked up and placed in a heavy duty polythene bag or heavy gauge polythene sheeting (available from builders merchants and DIY shops). Do this while the asbestos is damp. It must then be sealed with sticky tape. Packaging must be secure enough to be handled without risk of the package puncturing or splitting.
3. Only put the packages inside your car, if you are certain that the outside of the package is clean and it is securely wrapped. It is far better to put the package on a roof rack or in a trailer.
4. Keep your working area clear of pieces of broken asbestos-cement. Under no circumstances must pieces be crushed underfoot. Wash down the area when you have finished. Wash yourself thoroughly on completion of the job or before eating or drinking. The hardness and relatively low asbestos content of asbestos-cement materials mean they are less likely to generate dust than other products (Asbestos Insulation Board). But the risk of fibre release is still there, especially if it is broken or smashed up. However, wrapping and disposal of asbestos-cement will give no risk to health from the release of asbestos fibre providing the above instructions are followed.

## **DISPOSAL SITES**

Civic Amenity Sites are Council Depots where you can take refuse for disposal. The following Household Waste Recycling Centres have special skips for disposing of asbestos-cement, but you have to take the waste over to them: -

Dunbrik, Sundridge	(01959 561825)
Pedham Place, Swanley	(01322 660806)
North Farm, Tunbridge Wells	(01892 530262)
Pepper Hill, Southfleet	(01474 323170)
Old Rochester Way, Dartford	(01322 521450)

Again, you will have to wrap the asbestos and follow the advice given above. You **MUST** telephone the site first to ensure that they can accept the waste.

### **ORGANISE YOUR OWN SKIP**

If you have a large amount of waste (i.e. whole garage), you may wish to organise your own skip. Suitable local companies can be found in the “Yellow Pages”. You should ensure that the Skip Company knows that it is to collect asbestos-cement - they will need to make special arrangements for its final disposal. Ideally, the skip should be delivered and collected on the same day. The material should be wet when put in the skip and the skip should be covered with a tarpaulin.

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