



FACT SHEET - Guide to Handling and Disposing of Household Asbestos

WHAT ARE THE RULES

It is a legislative requirement under Queensland Public Health legislation and Environmental Protection legislation for asbestos to be handled and disposed of in a safe and appropriate manner, and there are significant fines which can be imposed if any of these Laws are breached.

Note: Queensland Workplace Health and Safety regulates the management, control and removal of asbestos in the workplace (including residential premises which are a workplace when work is undertaken by a contractor) <https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/injury-prevention-safety/asbestos>

WHERE IS ASBESTOS COMMONLY FOUND

Residents are strongly encouraged to always take precautionary measures when uncertain if any materials contain asbestos. As a general rule, if the building was built:

- Before the mid 1980s, it is highly likely that it would have some materials containing asbestos.
- Between mid 1980s and 1990, it is likely that it would have materials containing asbestos
- After 1990, it is highly unlikely it would have material containing asbestos.

Should you wish to confirm the identification of asbestos in household material please contact a qualified asbestos testing specialist in the Yellow Pages or other local directories.

HOW TO HANDLE ASBESTOS

When removing less than 10 square meters of house hold asbestos the minimum requirements are:

- Wear suitable Personal Protective Equipment (such as disposable overalls, dust mask/respirator);
- Avoid handling asbestos in windy conditions – all persons to work upwind;
- Ensure that persons in proximity of work area are restricted to those who are actually assisting with the task;
- Wet the product down as soon as possible and prior to disturbing, with a low pressure water supply (i.e. garden hose, watering can, bucket, spray bottle); and
- Double bag in heavy duty 0.2mm polyethylene sheeting and seal the bagging so as to prevent any air born particles from escaping and any contaminated items (such as rags, clothing etc).

If you are removing more than 10 square meters of house hold asbestos:

- An asbestos removal licence through Queensland Health. Further information can be found at <http://www.deir.qld.gov.au/asbestos/removal/homeowners-certificate-to-remove-asbestos.htm> ; or

Engage a contractor who is a licensed asbestos removalist as approved by the Division of Workplace Health and Safety Queensland.



For further information contact Council's Environmental Health Services on 1300 883 699 and read the following guidelines <http://www.bundaberg.qld.gov.au/files/document19919.pdf>

TRANSPORT AND DISPOSAL OF ASBESTOS

The transport and disposal of asbestos is regulated by the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection <http://www.deir.qld.gov.au/asbestos/removal/transport-and-disposal-of-asbestos-waste/requirements-for-transporting-asbestos.htm>

The regulated waste transport laws, including asbestos do not apply if you are transporting less than 250 kg of asbestos waste in a vehicle on a non-commercial base. However you require to handle asbestos in a safe and approved manner

As a general guide, 250kg (10 square meters) of typical asbestos waste occupies about a quarter of a normal house hold trailer.

House hold (non commercial operators) are:

- Required to handle asbestos in a safe and approved manner.
- Limited to transporting a maximum of 250kg of asbestos products.
- Fees for disposal
- Recommended to contact Council's Waste & Recycling Services regarding disposal terms such as:
 - Waste facilities authorised to accept asbestos
 - Times asbestos will be accepted
 - Packaging of asbestos and contaminated items

Please follow directions given at Waste Disposal Facilities to ensure the safe disposal of asbestos.

You are required to declare asbestos when disposing of waste. More information can be found on waste facility locations, fees and opening hours http://www.bundaberg.qld.gov.au/services/waste_recycling

For all quantities over 250 kg per job you must engage an authorised commercial operator.

For further information on asbestos waste transport and disposal contact Council's Waste & Recycling Services on 1300 883 699.