

## PAINTING OR SEALING BONDED MATERIALS CONTAINING ASBESTOS

While it's not necessary to seal, paint or clean bonded materials containing asbestos materials for health reasons, this is sometimes done to extend structural life and improve appearance.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Asbestos is a hazardous substance.

It is a risk to your health and the health of those around you if asbestos fibres become airborne.

Plan ahead to avoid disturbing materials containing asbestos.

Always prevent creating any dust.

Follow the correct safety procedures.

### INFORMATION:

Sealing or painting should only be carried out on materials that are in good condition. If the material is significantly weathered, damaged or broken, the material should be removed and replaced with a non-asbestos material (eg. plywood, plasterboard, fibre cement sheeting).

**Under no circumstances** are materials containing asbestos to be water blasted or dry sanded. Power tools must not be used. All are illegal and **substantial on-the-spot fines apply**.

**WARNING!** It is very dangerous to work on an asbestos roof. Asbestos roofs become very brittle with age and are very slippery when wet. Working at a height also presents a risk of falling. Consider using a business that specialises in sealing asbestos roofs.

### STEP 1. Get your equipment together

- Paint brushes, paint rollers or airless spray gun and equipment
- Sealant/paint
- Duct tape
- 0.2mm thick plastic bags no more than 1200mm long and 900mm wide for disposing of asbestos waste
- 0.2mm plastic sheeting as drop sheets
- Disposable cleaning rags (eg. paper, cloth)
- Bucket of water and spray bottle for misting
- Personal protective equipment – P1 or P2 respirator, disposable coveralls, safety goggles and disposal gloves
- You may also need a specific respirator for the sealant or paint to protect you from any harmful vapours (read the safety directions on the container)

### **Choosing the right sealant**

Sealants should be used on external surfaces such as roofs, as they penetrate the surface and bind into the material.

Choose a sealant specifically designed for use on asbestos materials that has a life of 10 years or more and can be reapplied over the top of the existing coat if required.

Try to avoid products that require the asbestos material to be vigorously cleaned beforehand as this can release asbestos fibres into air.

## STEP 2. Prepare the work area

- Advise your neighbours of what you are planning to do
- Remove all loose and unnecessary items from the work area
- Restrict entry to the asbestos work area/s (eg. by closing a door)
- Cover the floor of the work area with the plastic sheeting and secure with duct tape (this will help contain any runoff from wet sanding methods)
- Make sure all asbestos waste, including dust and contaminated personal protective equipment, is kept separate to all other waste
- Put on your personal protective equipment
- Check the fit of your respirator as per manufacturer's instructions

### **Environmental Tip:**

If you need to clean an asbestos roof with chemicals before sealing, consider how you will manage the runoff. In some cases, the chemicals used for cleaning may be harmful to the environment.

It is important that runoff from the roof is **not** washed into downpipes as these lead to the roadside gutter and local creeks and waterways. On-the-spot fines apply if this happens.

Protect the environment by collecting the runoff and disposing of it in accordance with the directions on the chemical container.

## STEP 3. Surface preparation and painting

DO'S	DON'TS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wipe dusty surfaces with a damp cloth.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Do not use a high-pressure water or compressed air cleaning equipment.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wash with sugar soap or another cleaning chemical.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Do not dry sand.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If needed, sand the surface using light wet sanding methods (hand sanding with water; <b>no power tools</b> ).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Do not use a dry broom or paint scraper on uncoated asbestos materials.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Use a chemical paint stripper and a scraper – but only on wet surfaces and taking care not to damage the asbestos material.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Use a wallpaper steamer if you need to - keep a spray water bottle handy to ensure the surface remains damp.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paint over existing paint, if it's in good condition.	

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If spray painting, use airless equipment as the low air pressure reduces overspray compared to normal high pressure equipment	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If using a paint brush or roller, use it lightly to avoid abrasion or other damage.	

**Warning!**

Never use electric sanders or other power tools when preparing a surface for painting/sealing. These actions can release asbestos fibres into the air and are illegal.

**STEP 4. Clean up**

- **Never** use dusting, sweeping or brushing methods as they will circulate asbestos fibres into the air
- Wear suitable personal protective equipment such as a half face respirator with a Class P1 or P2 filter (dust masks are not adequate)

**Warning!**

Domestic vacuum cleaners are unsuitable and should never be used, even if they have a HEPA filter.

- Use damp rags to wipe down all surfaces and equipment. If necessary, use damp rags and/or an approved asbestos vacuum cleaner to clean any remaining visibly contaminated sections of work area. Do not resoak used rags in the bucket, as this will contaminate the water. Instead either fold the rag so a clean surface is exposed or use a new rag.
- While still wearing your protective equipment, carefully roll or fold plastic sheeting from the floor, so any collected dust or debris does not spill. Lightly spray the dust or debris with water or PVA glue before rolling or folding the plastic for extra safety
- Place asbestos debris, used rags, plastic sheeting and other waste in disposal bags(only half fill the bag – this is to reduce the chance of the bag splitting)
- After the work area is clean, wet down your personal protective equipment and clothing with a light spray of water and place them and all used damp cloths into a disposable bag
- Before removing the bags from the work area, wipe external surfaces with damp rags to remove any dust and put the used rags in one of the bags
- Seal all disposal bags with duct tape, place into a second disposal bag and seal again
- Label all disposal bags with an appropriate warning such as:

CAUTION – ASBESTOS  
DO NOT DAMAGE OR OPEN BAG  
DO NOT INHALE DUST  
CANCER AND LUNG DISEASE HAZARD

- Dispose of asbestos waste at the appropriate waste facility (contact your local Council for more information).