Disposal of Asbestos

Introduction

Asbestos is a potentially dangerous material and inhalation of asbestos fibres has been proven to cause asbestosis, mesothelioma and cancer.

Because of the dangers associated with the handling of asbestos, its safe removal and disposal is very important.

Identification of asbestos

Asbestos cement (or AC Sheet) is regularly encountered during demolition of houses built prior to 1987 and is also known as bonded asbestos.

The presence or absence of asbestos fibres in a material can only be confirmed with certainty by a trained identifier using a microscope. However, a building surveyor, asbestos removalist or experienced builder will generally be able to identify whether a material is likely to contain asbestos based on the age, appearance and application of the material.

A precautionary approach should always be taken with material which is suspected of containing asbestos. If in doubt, either have the material examined by a laboratory and obtain a certificate, or assume asbestos is likely to be present and treat the material as asbestos.

Fibrous asbestos (friable asbestos) may be encountered in insulation material in older buildings. Friable asbestos material means any material that contains asbestos and is in the form of a powder or can be crumbled, pulverised, or reduced by hand pressure when dry.

For information on the safe removal and handling of asbestos, contact WorkCover NSW on 13 10 50. For information on disposal of bonded or friable asbestos, contact Council on 6499 2222.

To help protect the health and safety of waste management workers and the general public, do not:

- Put asbestos in kerbside waste bins.
- Mix asbestos with other types of waste and take to a landfill site or transfer station.
- Conceal asbestos in waste loads taken to a landfill site or transfer Station.
- Bury asbestos at premises not permitted to lawfully dispose of this material.

Legally Removing and Disposing of Asbestos

Some work involving the disturbance or removal of asbestos may require a development application and/or the engagement of a licenced asbestos removalist. For information on building works, contact Council on 6499 2222.

The handling and storage of asbestos waste at worksites is regulated by WorkCover NSW. Information on the requirements for removal and handling of asbestos can be obtained from WorkCover on 13 10 50.

The transport and disposal of asbestos waste is regulated by the NSW Environment Protection Authority. For information relating to the disposal of Asbestos in the Bega Valley, contact Council on 6499 2222.
Disposal Procedure

Disposing quantities of asbestos, greater than 0.25 cubic metres, from building and demolition sites

- Quantities of asbestos, greater than 0.25 cubic metres, must be disposed of by appointment at the Central Waste Facility. The cost is per tonne as listed in the fees and charges section of the Bega Valley Shire Council website.

- Prior approval for disposal is required. The Disposal of Asbestos form available on Council’s website must be completed prior to disposal. Payment is based on weight and shall be made at the time of disposal at the Central Waste Facility by credit card, EFTPOS or account. Cash payments are not accepted.

- Bookings for disposal are to be arranged through Council’s Waste Operations Supervisor a minimum of 48 hours prior to proposed disposal (Tel 0428 688 607). The Disposal of Asbestos form is provided by the customer to the site plant operator at the time of disposal. The form is retained at the Central Waste facility gatehouse for Council’s records.

- To contain and eliminate the hazard of release of asbestos fibres, asbestos material must be wrapped and sealed in minimum 200 micron plastic in portions that may be unloaded manually or in a manner that prevents the generation and release of dust.

- Tipping of asbestos waste from any vehicle is permitted only with the prior approval of the Waste Operations Supervisor.

- If these requirements are not followed significant penalties may apply.

Small quantities (less than 0.25 cubic metres) of asbestos from clean up around residential properties

It is common for householders in older homes to discover pieces of asbestos around or under their home. Small quantities of asbestos can be disposed of at Bermagui, Merimbula and Eden Waste Depots in approved bags provided by Council and pre-purchased at the sites. The cost of the bag includes disposal fee.