

ASBESTOS AWARENESS

Starting repairs or renovations on your property? This leaflet explains where asbestos can be found and advises how to manage it safely.

Asbestos is a health hazard to everyone and disturbing or damaging it can loosen fibres that can be inhaled. If you or your contractors do not plan work carefully and take appropriate precautions, you may spread contamination.

Once fibres are in the air, they can easily spread, so do not expose yourself or others to this risk.



EXAMPLES OF TYPES OF ASBESTOS:



Materials containing asbestos were common in the following building products from the 1940s through to the 1990s:

- Asbestos cement products - pipes, flues, roofs etc
- Wall cladding (fibrolite)
- Lagging e.g. on pipes or boilers etc
- Water tanks
- Asbestos insulating board e.g. power boards
- Sprayed coatings on ceilings, walls, beams and columns
- Textured decorative coatings, flat and stippled plaster
- Vinyl flooring and backing
- Textiles and composites
- Gaskets and ropes e.g. on wood burners
- Lathe and plaster
- Mastics and sealants
- Damp proof courses e.g. malthoid



The only way to be certain if your property contains asbestos is to have it tested by an accredited laboratory. NEVER attempt to obtain a sample without talking to a laboratory first. For a list of accredited testing facilities, visit www.ianz.govt.nz/directory

REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING RULES

1. Always engage a specialist asbestos contractor to undertake the removal of asbestos.
2. Asbestos is classified as special waste, so only approved contractors are allowed to remove, transport and dispose of it.
3. Asbestos is **NOT** accepted at any Hurunui District Council transfer station. If you bring asbestos waste to a Hurunui District Council transfer station, you will be turned away.



ASBESTOS REMOVAL GUIDE

If testing confirms asbestos is present and you are starting repairs or renovations you can do one of the following;



1. Leave it undisturbed. This is only recommended if it is undamaged and will not be impacted by repair work.
2. Engage an asbestos licence holder to put in place other options e.g. sealing, encasing or complete removal.
3. A professional asbestos removal company must manage the removal, transportation and disposal. They are fully trained and equipped to undertake this work.

For further information, please visit www.asbestosaware.co.nz