

REGIONAL ENVIROSCIENCE

ASBESTOS AT WORK KIT

At EnviroScience, we safeguard health through science.

Our licensed asbestos assessors identify, monitor and manage contaminants that can be a part of everyday life and harmful to health. We test for and manage the situation to make sure that levels are in a safe range, legislative requirements are met and staff, the community and the environment are safe.

Identification and management of Asbestos - including Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA) is supported by our in-house NATA Laboratory based in regional NSW, providing fast, confidential results.

EnviroScience also offers a full range of science-based environmental services, including risk assessment and innovative strategies to meet regulatory and legislative requirements at all stages of a project.

Available 24/7, and regionally based - we live and work in the communities with strong local partnerships to ensure smooth running projects.

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Regional EnviroScience

DUBBO | ORANGE | MAITLAND | TAMWORTH | WAGGA WAGGA | MAROOCHYDORE



ASBESTOS AT WORK – YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

Asbestos was once used in Australia in more than 3000 different products, and breathing in asbestos fibres can cause asbestosis, lung cancer and mesothelioma.

If asbestos fibres are in a stable material, such as fibro, they pose little health risk. However, when the fibro is damaged or disturbed in some way, fibres can become loose and airborne, and pose a risk to someone's health. There are specific laws about working with asbestos. Here is a summary provided by Safework:

WORKING WITH ASBESTOS

Don't allow workers to work with asbestos, except under prescribed circumstances or until they are properly trained. Also, make sure the exposure standard for asbestos is not exceeded.

More information, visit asbestosawareness.com.au or call 1800 Asbestos (1800 272 378).

FIND ASBESTOS IN THE WORKPLACE

Get a licensed asbestos assessor, to inspect your workplace for asbestos. If unsure whether it is present, assume it is. If necessary, have a sample checked by a NATA-accredited laboratory. Once identified, make sure all asbestos is clearly labelled

KEEPING AN ASBESTOS REGISTER

If your workplace was built before 31 December 2003, you must keep a register that outlines when and where asbestos has been located, what type it is, and what condition it's in. The register should be available to anyone involved in work at the workplace.

PREPARE AN ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT PLAN

If asbestos has been identified at your workplace, you must prepare and maintain an asbestos management plan, which is reviewed at least every five years or when requested by a health and safety representative or if the asbestos is removed, disturbed, sealed or enclosed. The plan must be available to anyone involved in work at the workplace.

MONITOR WORKERS' HEALTH

You must provide and pay for health monitoring for all those working with, or exposed to, asbestos.

TRAIN WORKERS

Your workers must be trained in identifying and handling asbestos safely, and understanding suitable control measures.

WHAT NOT TO DO

When you're working on or near asbestos, you must not use high-pressure water sprays or compressed air – and you must control the use of power tools, brooms or anything else that might release asbestos into the air.

ASBESTOS UNEXPECTED FIND PROTOCOL

Many asbestos exposures in the workplace happen when workers unintentionally disturb asbestos. In the event of a significant disturbance or unexpected find of suspected asbestos, the following steps should be undertaken:

01



STOP WORK, VACATE & ALERT

Stop work, vacate the immediate area and alert others.

02



ISOLATE & RESTRICT ACCESS

Isolate the area and restrict access, ideally with a 10m exclusion zone.

03



SIGNPOST

Signpost the exclusion zone with asbestos warning signs or similar.

04



CONTACT REGIONAL ENVIROSCIENCE

Contact Regional Enviroscience 1300 372 436 to assess the area, test the material and provide clear management recommendations.

05



AIR MONITORING

Air monitoring with testing conducted by a NATA accredited laboratory is the only way to answer the question "Have I been exposed to asbestos fibres?"

06



REMOVAL

Removal of the material by a licensed removal contractor working in accordance with Regional Enviroscience recommendations.

07



CLEARANCE INSPECTION

Clearance inspection after the clean-up and before reoccupation to ensure the area is asbestos free and safe to reoccupy.

DO NOT REMOVE IT
DO NOT WET IT DOWN
DO NOT WALK THE MATERIAL AROUND
ON BOOTS



Regional

EnviroScience

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