

# SAFETY FIRST: ASBESTOS DISPOSAL



Asbestos is a natural material that's resistant to heat and corrosion. Asbestos was used in a wide range of products including building materials, brake pads and other products. Asbestos is now known to be a hazardous substance, as it contains tiny fibrils that can be released by abrasion and when airborne can become lodged into a person's lungs and lead to cancer or scarring of the lungs. Exposure to asbestos usually occurs by breathing in the air of buildings containing asbestos material that are being demolished or renovated.

## LEGAL OBLIGATIONS FOR THE REMOVAL OF ASBESTOS

To minimise the chance of being exposed to asbestos, it is very important to prevent the release of fibres into the air.

If you are unsure if a material contains asbestos, play it safe and assume that it does.

Home renovators and owner builders must hold a certificate obtained under arrangements approved by Queensland Health to remove more than 10 square metres of non-friable (bonded) asbestos.

Before removing any asbestos check for safety and legal requirements at [www.health.qld.gov.au/asbestos](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/asbestos).

Trades and contractors and asbestos removalists need either a class A or class B asbestos removal licence issued under the *Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011*.

For further information on asbestos removal legal obligations visit [www.asbestos.qld.gov.au](http://www.asbestos.qld.gov.au) or [www.worksafe.qld.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au). As a general rule, if your house was built prior to mid 1980s, it is highly likely that asbestos materials were used in construction.

Asbestos building material was no longer manufactured in Australia after 1990. It is illegal to re-use, recycle, store or giveaway asbestos.

## PREPARING YOUR ASBESTOS FOR DISPOSAL

Asbestos must be disposed of at Waste Management Facility. It is illegal to dispose of asbestos waste in domestic garbage bins or to illegally dump asbestos products.



So as to limit the disturbance of the hazardous fibres, it is crucial to ensure that asbestos is not broken into small pieces.

Asbestos waste needs to be double wrapped in 0.2mm thick plastic bags or sheeting, sealed with tape, labelled as being double wrapped and transported to a landfill site that accepts asbestos.

Once the asbestos is properly covered all covering needs to be clearly labelled with an appropriate warning such as **CAUTION - ASBESTOS, DO NOT OPEN PACKAGING**.

When disposing of asbestos, there are a number of guidelines that must be met:

- Large amounts of waste that require a skip bin need the skip bin to be double lined with heavy PVC plastic sheets of 0.2mm.
- The skip needs to be lined with enough overhang to completely enclose the asbestos material within the confines of the plastic and then sealed with industry tape creating an airtight seal prior to collection.
- A Waste Transport Certificate must be completed for each load of asbestos and can be obtained by contacting the Department of Environmental and Science on 13 QGOV (13 74 68) or [www.des.qld.gov.au](http://www.des.qld.gov.au).
- Asbestos must be able to be placed into a landfill without the plastic sheeting tearing or breaking.

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## WHO CAN TRANSPORT ASBESTOS?

An environmental approval for the transportation of regulated waste and the completion of waste transport certificates is not required for non-commercial (includes homeowners) transportation of less than 175kg of asbestos waste.

This means that if you carry less than 175kg of asbestos waste as an incidental part of carrying out an activity and this is not the main purpose of a business than you do not require the hold an environmental authority.

Regulated waste transport laws apply to transporting 175kg or more of asbestos waste in a vehicle on a non-commercial basis.

To transport waste of 175kg or more you will need to either:

- Engage a commercial contractor to undertake the transportation and dispose of the asbestos
- Obtain an environmental authority for regulated waste transport. Application for environmental authority to transport regulated waste can be made to the Department of Environment and Science.
- For the transportation of asbestos waste on a commercial basis, the regulated transport laws apply for the transportation of any quantity of asbestos waste in a vehicle.

Commercial basis means that the primary objective of the operator is to transport regulated waste.



## DISPOSAL OF ASBESTOS

An Application for Special Burial Form must be completed and submitted to Isaac Regional Council prior to the local landfill accepting this waste.

Once this form has been submitted to Council we will contact you regarding the disposal date and time.

Asbestos loads will only be accepted at Council's Waste Management Facilities by a licensed regulated waste transporter with an accompanying Waste Transport Certificate.

Upon arrival at the local Waste Management Facility, your load will be inspected and disposal fees will be paid. You will be directed to a disposal area for immediate burial.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
**ISAAC.QLD.GOV.AU** | **1300 ISAACS** (1300 47 22 27)

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