

a10

asbestos essentials

Non-licensed tasks

This information will help employers and the self-employed to comply with the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006.

It is also useful for trade union and employee safety representatives.

Asbestos fibres can cause lung cancer and lung diseases.

The sheet covers the points you need to follow to reduce exposure to an adequate level.

It can act as a risk assessment for asbestos if it matches what you plan to do.

Follow all the points, or use equally effective measures.

Only carry out this work if you are properly trained and have the right equipment.

Main points

- Asbestos fibres can kill.
- Keep exposures low using all the controls in this sheet.
- Also follow sheet a0 and equipment and method (em) sheets; see 'Essential information'.



Wet the debris again if you find dry material, avoid creating a slurry

Cleaning debris from guttering on an asbestos cement (AC) roof

What this sheet covers

This sheet describes good practice when you need to remove debris from guttering.

The guttering may be made of AC, or it may simply collect water from an AC roof.

Preparing the work area

- Ensure safe access.
- Can you do this work from ground-level?
- Restrict access - minimise the number of people present.
- Use tape and notices to warn others.

Caution: AC roofs are always fragile and cannot bear weight.

Equipment

- Warning tape and notices;
- scoop, trowel or scraper;
- garden-type sprayer or watering can containing wetting agent;
- bucket of water and rags;
- asbestos waste container, eg labelled polythene sack; and
- clear polythene sack.

Personal protective equipment (PPE)

- Provide:
 - disposable overalls fitted with a hood;
 - boots without laces (laced boots are hard to decontaminate); and
 - protective gloves. Select single use gloves.
- A respirator is not normally required.

Procedure

- Sprinkle the wetting solution into the gutter. Avoid creating a slurry.
- Scoop out the debris into the waste container.
- Wet the debris again if you find dry material.

Cleaning and disposal

- Clean the equipment with damp rags.
- Put used rags and other waste in the asbestos waste container and tape it closed.
- Put the asbestos waste container in a clear polythene sack and tape it closed.
- Disposal - see sheet em9.

MORE HELP

- **Licensed asbestos contractors, and training providers** - HSE's Infoline
Tel: 0845 345 0055
Textphone: 0845 408 9577
e-mail: hse.infoline@natbrit.com
and at www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/licensing/index.htm
- **HSE priced and free publications** -
HSE Books Tel: 01787 881165
and at www.hsebooks.co.uk
- **Qualified hygienists** - The
British Occupational Hygiene
Society (BOHS) Tel: 01332 298101
and at www.bohs.org/ under
'Professional > Consultants'
- **Trade associations** - the Asbestos
Removal Contractors Association
(ARCA) Tel: 01283 531126 Website:
www.arcaweb.org.uk, or the Asbestos
Control and Abatement Division (ACAD)
Tel: 01325 466704
- **Disposal of asbestos waste** -
www.environment-agency.co.uk,
www.sepa.org.uk/, or
www.netregs.gov.uk/netregs.
- **More asbestos pictures or help to
decide if work is licensed** -
www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/index.htm

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

**Download and follow these advice
sheets from [www.hse.gov.uk
/asbestos/essentials/index.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/essentials/index.htm):**

*em1 What to do if you uncover or
damage materials that could contain
asbestos*

em2 Training

em5 Wetting asbestos materials

*em7 Using damp rags to clean
surfaces of minor asbestos
contamination*

em8 Personal decontamination

em9 Disposal of asbestos waste

Personal decontamination

- See sheet em8

Clearance and checking off

- Visually inspect the area to make sure that it has been cleaned properly.
- Clearance air sampling is not normally required.
- Get the premises owner, duty-holder or client to check off the job.

OTHER HAZARDS

Work at height - see
www.hse.gov.uk/falls/index.htm.
Take precautions to avoid falls. Must
you work from a ladder? Where
necessary, erect an access platform.

Work on fragile roofs - see
[www.hse.gov.uk/construction/
information.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/information.htm). Fragile roofs cannot
bear weight.

**There may also be other hazards -
you need to consider them all.**

This guidance is issued by the
Health and Safety Executive.
Following the guidance is not
compulsory and you are free to
take other action. But if you do
follow the guidance you will
normally be doing enough to
comply with the law. Health
and safety inspectors seek to
secure compliance with the law
and may refer to this guidance
as illustrating good practice.

SAFETY CHECKLIST

- ✓ Can you avoid disturbing asbestos
by doing the job in some other
way?
- ✓ Do you need a licence for
the work?
- ✓ Always follow all legal
requirements.
- ✓ Follow the task guidance sheet.
- ✓ Use an asbestos waste container.
- ✓ Dispose at a licensed disposal
site.

Caution:

- Don't sweep up dust or debris -
use a Class H vacuum cleaner or
damp rags.
- Don't take used overalls home.
- Don't re-use disposable PPE.
- Don't smoke.
- Don't eat or drink in the
work area.

This document is available at www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/essentials/index.htm

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Asbestos Essentials Task Manual 2001. Please acknowledge the source as HSE.

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