

SSOW WD07- Safe System of Work: Handling Asbestos.

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1. Activity

Asbestos is a naturally occurring substance that breaks down into a very fine dust which when inhaled can have serious effects on health if inhaled. All asbestos containing substances should be treated with care and are potentially hazardous.

Asbestos can be commonly found in domestic residences occurring in roofing and drainage materials, and within some night storage heaters.

There are two main types of asbestos:

Bonded Asbestos: - Bonded asbestos is permitted for acceptance at the HW&RC's. It includes cement asbestos roofing sheets, guttering and other products such as friction products including disc brakes, clutch plates etc.

Fibrous Asbestos: - Fibrous asbestos is not permitted at any of the sites. It includes asbestos insulation board, pipe insulation, ceiling tiles, some types of fire blankets and cement asbestos products that have been softened by fire damage.

This SSOW describes the Waste Acceptance and handling requirements of receiving asbestos at HW&RCs and guidance for clearing spillages.

2. Persons at Risk

Recycling Centre Operatives
Waste Hauliers
Members of the Public

3. Hazards

Inhalation of asbestos dust and associated disease, Asbestosis
Mesothelioma.

4. Procedures

a) Pre-Notification

- Any member of the public wishing to deposit household waste at the recycling will have to book it in through Council Connect: They will be instructed to:
 - Ensure that any asbestos product is not broken.
 - Ensure that the asbestos is dampened down with water to mitigate asbestos fibre release
 - Ensure that the asbestos is double-bagged and sealed.

b) Waste Reception

- When the member of the public arrives the site and makes themselves known ensure that they have the correct notification from Council Connect and have complied with the instructions provided. In the event that they have not complied with those instructions refuse them tipping on site.
- Do not open the bags to check the waste.
- Direct the member of the public to the asbestos skip. Unlock and open the skip doors to allow the member of the public to load their waste. Do not help the member of the public unless they are obviously struggling with the weight of the sheet and you are wearing the correct PPE.
- Once they have finished tipping, close and lock the asbestos skip doors.

c) Asbestos Spills

- In the event of a small spillage by the asbestos container ensure that the area is cleared of non-essential personnel.
- Before commencing any works to clear the spillage the correct PPE must be worn. A dedicated asbestos spill kit is available on each site.
- Dampen down the spilt waste with water.
- Standing upwind of the spill, using a spade or shovel, place the spilt waste in a bag or sack and place carefully within the asbestos container.
- To prevent asbestos becoming airborne, the spillage has to be cleared as soon as reasonably possible.
- In the event of a large spill that cannot be handled safely, specialist contractors will be contacted to safely deal with the spillage.

d) Fly tipped asbestos within the vicinity of the Site

- If you find bonded asbestos fly tipped within the vicinity of the site it is of a quantity that you can manage safely, treat the waste in the same way as detailed in section C – Asbestos Spills.
- If you believe the waste to be fibrous asbestos, immediately cordon off the area and contact your site manager/supervisor. The site is not permitted to take fibrous asbestos and requires specialist removal from site, and the level of your training and PPE available on site does not allow for its removal if present in large quantities.

e) Fly tipped asbestos in compactor

- If you discover asbestos like material has been tipped directly into the compactor hoppers immediately shut down the compactor and close the barrier.
- Alert the weighbridge operative to retain the driver of the vehicle suspected of tipping the material.
- Contact the site manager
- Wearing the appropriate PPE from the spill kit and dampen down the area.
- The site manager/supervisor will assess the incident and will be responsible in arranging the safe clearance of the spillage. This action will vary depending on the scale of the incident and suspect material.
- For materials suspected to be **AIB** this action will involve cordoning off and isolating the area completely and arranging third party specialist removal.
- For material suspected to be 'bonded' action may involve clearance using site personnel and following the directions in section c – Asbestos Spills.

It may be necessary to remove the container from the back of the compactor and push the material through.

While this action is happening staff must not be in the vicinity of the packers as it is possible the material may break as it falls to the floor.

The whole area should be dampened down before the spillage procedure is followed.

The packers must be locked off with the traffic lights on red and the hopper barriers closed while staff are working in and around the packer.

f) General Requirements

- Whenever the public are depositing asbestos, as far as possible, stand upwind to prevent you inhaling asbestos dust,
- Never enter skips containing asbestos
- Ensure that asbestos skips are locked shut when not in use and overnight
- Avoid breathing any dust from the material.
- Care should be taken to avoid getting work wear contaminated with asbestos products, if there is any possibility that clothing or overalls have been contaminated you should:
 - Remove your overalls or work clothes by rolling inside out and place them into a bag for asbestos waste.
 - Wash down your boots
 - Remove your gloves by rolling inside out and place them into the asbestos waste bag.
 - Your mask should be removed last to avoid inhaling asbestos fibres whilst removing other PPE. Dispose of the mask within the asbestos waste bag.
 - Get a colleague wearing the appropriate PPE to tape up the waste bag and place into the asbestos skip.
 - Inform your supervisor or manager.
- It is best practice to ensure that during dry weather or following the delivery of particularly dry and friable asbestos to dampen down the waste within the asbestos container.
- Night storage heaters manufactured prior to 1975 may or may not contain asbestos and it is impossible to tell for certain. Therefore night storage heaters of this age shall be treated as asbestos waste and shall be double bagged and placed within the asbestos skip. Under no circumstances should the night storage heaters be dismantled and the brick work placed with the hardcore waste.

5. General Guidance

All asbestos containing materials are potentially hazardous and must be treated with care.

6. Personal Protective Equipment

- Chemically resistant gloves
- Ballistic Trousers
- Eye Protection
- Face Mask

7. Medical Requirements / Vaccinations

- Biennial Health Surveillance will be provided to all permanent staff including lung function testing.

8. Training

- As with all Safe Systems of Work training will be provided in monthly Briefing sessions.
- Site Managers will ensure that employees, and agency staff, know the safe system of work before using or being exposed to any hazardous substance and will provide any necessary training
- Staff will be trained to recognise asbestos and associated potential health risks involved in handling and treating this material.

Related Documents	
	Reference:
Safe Systems of Work	
PPE	SSOW WD05
Risk Assessments:	
Asbestos	WD25