

If you have asbestos materials in your home extra care should be taken when carrying out DIY.

**Do not** do any work which involves drilling, cutting or disturbing materials suspected of containing asbestos. Special precautions are required if this work is absolutely necessary.

**Do not** scrape or sand suspected asbestos materials before painting or decorating. Some types of asbestos materials are very soft and can release large number of fibres if rubbed or scraped.

You should contact us on **0300 123 4000** for further specific advice before you attempt any works.

You **must not** attempt to remove any asbestos yourself. All work must be carried out by a competent person or depending on the type of asbestos, by a licensed contractor. Asbestos waste **must** be removed and disposed in an approved manner in line with the Hazardous Waste Regulations 2005.

**Remember, if in doubt, don't carry out any work until you're sure about asbestos in your home.**

**Call: 0300 123 4000**

## You can write to us at:

Babergh / Mid Suffolk District Councils,  
Endeavour House,  
Housing Office Russell Road,  
IPSWICH,  
Suffolk IP7 6SJ

Or e-mail us on:  
[asbestos@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:asbestos@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk)

Telephone: **0300 123 4000**

Armstrong York Asbestos Environmental  
Stanhope Industrial Park  
Wharf Road  
Stanford Le Hope Essex  
SS17 0EH

Telephone: **0800 046 9079**



Advice to householders

## Asbestos in your home



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Armstrong York Asbestos Environmental working in Partnership with Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils to supply quality building surveys



## What is asbestos?

Asbestos is the name given to naturally occurring fibrous raw materials found in many parts of the world. Asbestos fibres are strong and resistant to heat and chemicals. This led in the past to their use in a wide range of building materials and products.

There are many types of asbestos but its presence can only be determined by surveys and testing.

## When is asbestos a problem?

Asbestos in the home is not a problem as long as it isn't disturbed and is in good condition.

When asbestos deteriorates, becomes damaged or is disturbed - for example by drilling or sanding - fibres can be released into the air.

If you breathe these fibres in, you are at risk of developing an asbestos related disease which can, in some cases, lead to death.

Most materials containing asbestos in domestic housing are of low risk, but even so, contact with these asbestos fibres should be avoided wherever possible. If asbestos is in a position where it might be damaged easily, the Council will remove it. Removal of any asbestos materials needs to be carried out by a competent person or a licensed contractor.

## Where can I find?

Common materials that may contain asbestos include:

- **Roofing materials (corrugated sheets)**
- **Bath panels, soffit boards, fire surroundings, flue pipes, cold water tanks, guttering and drain pipes**
- **Decorative coatings such as artex, and other similar products**
- **Plastic and vinyl floor tiles**
- **WC cisterns, WC seats**
- **Some components of central heating systems, including hot water boilers, gas fires, electric storage heaters**
- **Insulating board used for fire protection and ceiling tiles**

Loft or cavity wall insulation does not contain asbestos.

The list above gives examples of typical areas that may contain asbestos but is not exhaustive.

Good practice is to generally leave asbestos based products in place as long as they are not damaged.

## What can we do about asbestos?

We have a database which holds information on all the properties we own and manage, with specific asbestos information recorded against each address.

The database is used to monitor and manage any asbestos-containing materials. This will involve us revisiting selected properties regularly to carry out checks on certain asbestos materials.

Where required, we will carry out specialist surveys to make sure our records are kept continually up to date. Where asbestos remains we have a duty to check its condition regularly which could be 1-5 year cycles. There are different types of surveys, some of which involve taking samples of materials suspected of containing asbestos.

The samples are then tested. More in depth surveys can involve disruption but we will discuss this with you before we have to carry out that type of survey.

The law doesn't require that we remove materials that contain asbestos from your home, but if a suspect material becomes damaged and is reported to us or noted on a routine inspection visit, we will arrange the necessary repair or removal work.