



Asbestos: A guide for residents

What is asbestos?

Asbestos is the name given to a group of fibrous minerals found naturally in many parts of the world. In the past, asbestos was added to a variety of products to strengthen them and to provide fire-proofing and noise reduction.

Properties built since 2000 will not have asbestos in the fabric of the building. If your property was built before 2000, we may need to carry out surveys to make sure repairs and work within your home happen safely.

What is wrong with asbestos?

Nothing, when it is in good condition, but when asbestos materials age or become damaged they may release fibres into the air. The fibres, breathed in, could lead to asbestos-related diseases in later years. People who have worked with asbestos for many years as part of their job are most likely to be affected.

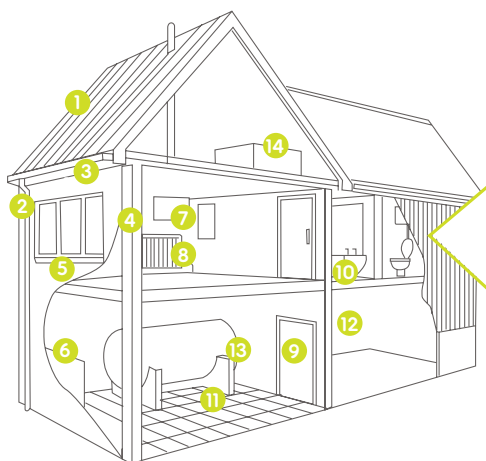
Most instances of asbestos in housing are of low risk and unlikely to harm your health.

What should you do?

If you think asbestos-containing materials may be in your home, don't panic! Asbestos in good condition will not release asbestos fibres. There is no danger unless the fibres are released and inhaled into the lungs.

Dos and don'ts

- **DO** check material regularly if you suspect it may contain asbestos. Look for signs of wear and tear, such as scratches, scuffs or water damage. If you notice any damage or deterioration please tell us.
- **DO** make sure you get our permission before making any changes or adaptations to the structure or fabric of your home or when carrying out any work that may disturb an asbestos-containing material. This is for your safety – without our permission you may be putting yourself, your family or those carrying out work at risk of exposure to asbestos. You may also have to pay the costs of dealing with any asbestos incident caused.
- **DO** allow us access to your home for our specially trained contractors to carry out asbestos surveys and maintain any asbestos within your home
- **DON'T** drill, cut or disturb asbestos containing materials.
- **DON'T** scrape or sand asbestos-containing materials before decorating. Some types of asbestos-containing materials are very soft and can release large numbers of fibres if rubbed or scraped.



Places where asbestos is sometimes found in homes

1. Roof tiles and gutters
2. Gutters and down pipes
3. Fascias
4. Partition walls
5. Panels beneath windows
6. Cupboards around boilers
7. Panels behind electrical equipment
8. Panels behind fires or heaters
9. Panels on or inside fire doors
10. Bath panels
11. Floor tiles
12. Textured coatings (artex)
13. Gaskets and rope seals inside gas appliances
14. Cold water storage tanks

Our responsibilities

- Where we know about any asbestos in your home we will ensure that any asbestos containing material is maintained in a safe condition. Where it is advisable that asbestos is removed, we will arrange this. Please do not try to remove any asbestos-containing material yourself. Only licensed contractors are allowed to remove and dispose of most types of asbestos.
- Any asbestos-containing material left in your home will be in good condition. It will be covered or out of reach, so that removal will not be necessary. Our regular monitoring programme ensures it remains in good condition.
- We undertake detailed asbestos surveys of our homes when we carry out improvement works and when we upgrade empty homes. Currently, 80% of our homes have had asbestos surveys and we share these survey reports with residents. This information is recorded in our asbestos register, so that we can let you know of any asbestos risks where you live. Our asbestos register also covers all shared spaces in the buildings we own.

If you are worried about asbestos in your home, or if you would like us to carry out a survey before you carry out any work, please contact us on **01225 366000** or visit **www.curo-group.co.uk/asbestos**.



How to get advice

Contact us on 01225 366000 or visit **www.curo-group.co.uk/asbestos**

Where to get more information
The Health & Safety Executive
www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos

Information from your local council
www.gov.uk/asbestos-in-home

Book it, pay it, check it - get things done quicker at MyCuro

www.curo-group.co.uk/mycuro

Live chat, Facebook, Twitter, email & more

www.curo-group.co.uk/contact

T: 01225 366000

If you would like this information in an alternative format please get in touch