Asbestos panels – loosely bound


Panel for a fireplace


Panels above a boiler


Panels for walls


Panels for a ceiling


Spandrel panels

Activities involving little or no risk

- Conducting a visual inspection
- Manually handling asbestos panels
- Transporting asbestos panels

Activities involving an increased risk

- Cleaning with asbestos vacuum-cleaner
- Dismantling panels without breaking
- Encapsulating or sealing without drilling

Activities involving a very high risk

- Dismantling with crushing and breaking panels
- Grinding, polishing
- Cutting

Sprayed asbestos


Sprayed asbestos for fire protection


Sprayed asbestos for pipe coating


Sprayed asbestos for insulation

Activities involving little or no risk

- Conducting a visual inspection
- Walking in rooms

Activities involving an increased risk

- Installing the plastic glove bag around the piping for removal
- Installing an asbestos enclosure (negative pressure work area)

Activities involving a very high risk

- Cleaning materials using compressed air
- Removing asbestos
- Grinding, polishing

Loose asbestos lagging


Grains containing asbestos used for insulation


Damaged pipe insulation


Asbestos sheets


Asbestos-containing textiles

Activities involving little or no risk

- Performing visual checks
- Walking in rooms

Activities involving an increased risk

- Installing an asbestos enclosure (negative pressure work area)
- Cleaning surfaces (wipe (not dry) or vacuum cleaning)

Activities involving a very high risk

- Destroying, breaking
- Removing asbestos
- Grinding, drilling
- Wiping dust using a brush or something that is dry

Fireproof coverings for ventilation, chutes and storage heaters


Cement-bound ventilation


Cement-bound insulation of components and installations


Cement-bound heating pipes


Cement-bound chutes


Storage heater


Storage heater

Activities involving little or no risk

- Conducting a visual inspection

Activities involving an increased risk

- Cleaning
- Painting
- Dismantling or replacing on a limited scale without damaging insulation
- Taking care of fairing or sealing of the small areas
- Removing undamaged asbestos-containing material
- Encapsulating asbestos-containing material in good shape

Activities involving a very high risk

- Dismantling or replacing on a larger scale where insulation has to be damaged
- Carrying out a comprehensive renovation of boiler-rooms and boiler houses
- Carrying out demolition and disposal work, including crushing and cutting

Insulation of pipe ducts against fire, heat and cold


Asbestos cardboards


Asbestos paper


Asbestos canvas

Activities involving little or no risk

- Conducting a visual inspection

Activities involving an increased risk

- Cleaning
- Painting
- Dismantling or replacing on a limited scale
- Fairing or sealing of the small areas
- Removing undamaged asbestos-containing material
- Encapsulating asbestos-containing material in good shape

Activities involving a very high risk

- Dismantling or replacing on a larger scale
- Carrying out a comprehensive renovation of boiler-rooms and boiler houses
- Carrying out demolition and disposal, including crushing and cutting

European Federation of Building and Woodworkers

In partnership with: navb·cnac constructiv, Byggeriets Arbejdsmiljøråd, suvapro Sicher arbeiten, AV Arbejdsmiljø, BG BAU Berufsgenossenschaft der Bauwirtschaft

WARNING CONTAINS ASBESTOS

Detecting asbestos and taking appropriate action

The main materials containing asbestos

European Federation of Building and Woodworkers

With financial support from the European Union

Asbestos and health hazards

How can asbestos get into the body?
Asbestos is dangerous when it is inhaled. Even low concentrations of asbestos dust in the atmosphere can cause very serious illness.

Why is asbestos dangerous?
Asbestos fibres have a crystalline structure. When they are handled mechanically, the fibres split lengthwise into increasingly fine fibrils, which can be spread over a large area. If they are inhaled during handling, it is difficult for the body to break them down or get rid of them.

What diseases can asbestos cause?
In the years they stay in the lung tissue, asbestos fibres can cause various serious illnesses such as asbestosis, mesothelioma, bronchial cancer, pleural plaques and lung cancer.
Therefore exposure to airborne asbestos fibres must be kept down to a minimum.

Latency period
All asbestos-related illnesses have a long latency period (usually between 15 and 45 years from the start of exposure). The risk rises with both the length of exposure and its intensity.

Human lives and health are the top priority

For me as a worker this means:

- my supervisor is responsible for safety.
  He or she will instruct me in how to handle asbestos-containing materials and provide me with the appropriate protective equipment;
- for my part, I will follow instructions, as I also have a responsibility to ensure safety;
- if I identify a failure, I will report this to my supervisor;
- if the work poses an immediate danger of injury or death, I will immediately inform my supervisor.

Activities involving little or no risk:
The work can be carried out without delay but with the appropriate caution.
This means that dust is neither created nor dispersed.

Activities involving an increased risk:
A high level of fibre release has to be anticipated.
The work must be performed only if appropriate measures are taken.

Activities involving a very high risk:
A very high level of fibre release has to be anticipated.
Ask about the conditions and measures required for such work. These can be obtained from your supervisor.

Asbestos cement – firmly bound


Window ledge


Corrugated sheets (roof and wall)


Façade sheets


Pipes


Support panel for electricity meters


Roof shingles

Activities involving little or no risk

- Walking on roof ladders
- Conducting visual checks
- Manually transporting shaped pieces
- Manually transporting individual asbestos sheets/boards if they are in good condition

Activities involving an increased risk

- Cleaning the workplace (do not wipe with something that is dry)
- Transporting larger quantities by hand
- Cleaning gutters with an asbestos cement roof
- Cleaning with a soft brush or sponge
- Carrying out non-destructive disassembly
- Painting
- Installing antennas, solar panels or a new roof on top

Activities involving a very high risk

- Destroying, breaking
- Cleaning with high-pressure water
- Wiping asbestos-containing dust using something that is dry
- Grinding
- Cutting with an angle grinder

Window putty – firmly bound


Wooden window with putty


Highly weathered window putty


Knocking out glass with a hammer (outdoors)


Caulking between window masonry

Activities involving little or no risk

- Removing casements
- Transporting casements
- Cleaning window panes
- Painting window putty
- Performing visual checks

Activities involving an increased risk

- Knocking out panes of glass with a hammer (outdoors)
- Cleaning indoor work areas with a damp cloth or a suitable vacuum cleaner (do not dry-wipe)
- Removing window putty using a putty knife or chisel (outdoors)
- Removing window putty using a heat-based process in which the putty is heated to around 70°C to soften it
- Removing caulk (between window frames and masonry) using a putty knife or chisel

Activities involving a very high risk

- Dry-wiping asbestos-containing dust
- Shredding whole windows or parts of windows containing asbestos-containing putty
- Removing window putty using milling machines, joint cutters or oscillating knives
- Grinding down putty residue

Floor coverings

Activities involving little or no risk

- Walking through rooms
- Cleaning floor coverings/maintenance cleaning
- Overlaying with a new floor covering
- Surface coating

Activities involving an increased risk

- Manually removing and packing single-layer floor coverings (vinyl-asbestos floor tiles)
- Cleaning the adhesive surface (use suction – do not dry-brush or dry-wipe)
- Coating/encapsulating the adhesive surface
- Removing screed with sticky adhesive
- Drilling in a single-layer floor
- Handling bitumen-glue

Activities involving a very high risk

- Removing multi-layered floor coverings
- Grinding off adhesive
- Milling off asbestos-containing flooring materials, i.e. magnesite
- Drilling in multi-layer flooring

Adhesives, plasters and fillers


Adhesives and glues for tiles


Plasters


Fillers in the corner of a room, where the ceiling and a wall meet

Activities involving little or no risk

- Walking through rooms
- Cleaning overlying floor coverings and/or floor tiles/flagstones, maintenance cleaning
- Repairing minor (i.e. superficial) damage
- Overlaying with a new floor covering
- Surface coating

Activities involving an increased risk

- Manually removing an asbestos-fibre-free top layer (floor coverings, floor tiles/flagstones, insulating material)
- Cleaning the surface of asbestos-containing adhesive (wipe or vacuum – do not dry-sweep), filler or plaster
- Drilling through a layer of adhesive, plaster or filler (e.g. to fit plugs/dowels)
- Coating/encapsulating the adhesive, filler or plaster surface
- Removing underlying screed with sticky asbestos-containing adhesive
- Demolishing masonry with sticky asbestos-containing tile adhesive or plaster

Activities involving a very high risk

- Mechanically removing (grinding, milling) asbestos-containing adhesive, filler or plaster from the sub-floor
- Chemically dissolving asbestos-containing adhesive from the sub-floor
- Grinding asbestos-containing filler (tile adhesive) for the purpose of surface treatment