

Keep safety at the heart
of your workplace



Safe Work Event 2010



Workplace safety
is in your hands



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Asbestos in the Workplace

**SafeWork SA
Mandy Kay**

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OVERVIEW



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- What is Asbestos
- The History of Asbestos
- Where you will find it
- Legislative Overview
- Responsibilities
- Further Information

WHAT IS ASBESTOS



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- Asbestos is the name given to a group of naturally occurring fibrous material.
- It was mined in Australia and overseas from several types of mineral rock.
- Asbestos was used extensively in many products due to its strength, insulating features and resistance to fire.
- The three main types of asbestos are:
chrysotile (white),
amosite (brown), and
crocidolite (blue)



WHAT IS FRIABLE ASBESTOS?



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- Is in powder form or can be pulverised or reduced to powder by hand pressure when dry.
- Friable asbestos is very hazardous as it is easily made airborne making it easier to be inhaled.

FRIABLE ASBESTOS PRODUCTS



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- Sprayed Fire Retardant
- Thermal Lagging
- Fire Blankets
- Welding Blankets
- Backing to sheet vinyl floor covering
- Flexible Connections to air conditioning ductwork

WHAT IS NON FRIABLE ASBESTOS?



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- Asbestos fibres bonded by cement, vinyl, resin or other similar product.
- It is considered less hazardous, until the bonded material containing the asbestos is broken down (and able to be inhaled).



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NON FRIABLE ASBESTOS

- Asbestos cement flat sheet products, corrugated roofing and fencing.
- Vinyl floor tiles.
- Compressed sheet products.
- Shingles
- Switchboards
- Brake and clutch linings.

WHERE IS ASBESTOS FOUND?



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- A large number of buildings in South Australia have been constructed using asbestos-containing products from around 1920 to mid 1980's.
- It is fire and heat resistant and was used to protect from fire and heat.
- You will typically find asbestos on the roof, ceilings, walls (internal), cladding (external), eaves, vinyl floors, around pipe work, behind ovens and radiators, ceiling spaces as sprayed insulation and can be found in gaskets of equipment.





















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LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

- OHSW Act
 - S19 – Duties of employers
 - S20 – Provision for policies
 - S21 – Duties of employees
 - S22 – Duties of employers and self-employed
 - S23 – Duties of occupiers
 - S23A – Duties of designers and building owners
 - S24A – Duties of plant owners



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LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK CONTINUED ...

- OHSW Regulations – Part 5
 - Asbestos identification
 - Asbestos control and management
 - Labeling
 - Registers
 - Training
 - Health surveillance
- Codes of Practice
 - Safe Removal of Asbestos
 - Management and Control of asbestos in the Workplace
 - Guidance Note of the Membrane Filter Method

WHAT ARE EMPLOYERS DUTIES?



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Employers must

- Provide a safe working environment
- Establish Safe Systems of Work
- Provide information, instruction, and training
- Written policies and procedures
- Consultation with employees
- Maintain atmospheric and health surveillance
- Protect their own health and safety
- Protect the health and safety of others (not employees)

WHAT ARE EMPLOYEES DUTIES?



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Employees must

- Use and PPE provided
- Obey reasonable instruction
- Comply with any policy or procedure that may apply at the workplace.
- Not act in a way that endangers others



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WHAT ARE THE DUTIES OF PERSONS IN POSSESSION OF ASBESTOS, INCLUDING PLANT OWNERS, BUILDING OWNERS & OCCUPIERS?

- Maintain workplace in a safe condition
- Ensure appropriate access and egress
- Ensure the building complies with all legislation
- Take reasonable steps to identify any asbestos-containing material installed
- Establish policies and procedures to control the asbestos and to prevent airborne fibre exposure

WHAT ARE THE DUTIES OF PERSONS IN POSSESSION OF ASBESTOS, INCLUDING PLANT OWNERS, BUILDING OWNERS & OCCUPIERS? CONTINUED ...



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- Maintain an asbestos register annually by a competent person
- Label all identified asbestos
- Monitor the health of employees who are working with asbestos
- Monitor the environment during the removal of asbestos
- Arrange for removal by a professional competent and licensed removalist if the asbestos is in an unstable condition and/or poses a significant health risk

UNSAFE ASBESTOS?



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- An asbestos removal license is needed to remove over 10m² of non friable asbestos or 0.5m² friable asbestos or less.
- Even if a license is not required stringent safety procedures must still be in place.
- Where under these amounts, an approved license holder is still the best and safest option.



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WHAT DOES SAFE REMOVAL LOOK LIKE?

- A Licensed Removalists will apply to SafeWork SA for asbestos removal approval 2 days before commencement of work.
- The removalists will must have a Safe Work Plan for the site and the work
- The removalists must notify immediate neighbours
- Signage, bunting, enclosures for the removal site
- Full coveralls and masks will be worn by the removalists

A SAFE REMOVAL CONTINUED...



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- Once the removal is complete you must receive a copy of the clearance certificate to inform you the site is now safe.
- The register will be updated
- The removalist will transport waste in line with EPA requirement, and dispose of Asbestos waste to a licensed waste disposal facility
- They will retain waste receipt and air monitoring results

REMEMBER



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- Don't take asbestos lightly
- Don't expose yourself or others to asbestos fibres
- Don't engage in any activity that creates dust
 - Sanding
 - Drilling
 - Cutting
 - Grinding
- Don't remove warning labels
- Maintain your asbestos register
- Look for signs of decay and damage
- Don't ignore legislative requirements

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE BEEN EXPOSED



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- Report it immediately.
- Seek medical advice.
- Contact SA Health for advice on your health.
- Contact SafeWork SA for advice on licensed removalists and to report the possible exposure.

Further Information.



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- SafeWork SA
- EPA
- Department of Health
- Local Council
- Victims groups such as Asbestos Victims Association, or Asbestos Diseases Society of South Australia



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Questions?

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