



# RESPECT ASBESTOS

*it's not worth the risk!*

## JOURNALIST NOTES

ASBESTOS AWARENESS MONTH 2024



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### MEDIA ENQUIRIES

Advocacy Australia 02 9518 4744  
media@advocacyaustralia.org.au

Clare Collins: 0414 821 957 ♦ clare@advocacyaustralia.org.au  
Alice Collins: 0414 686 091 ♦ alice@advocacyaustralia.org.au

### IMAGES & GRAPHICS

For images and graphics access: <https://asbestosawareness.box.com/v/AsbestosAwarenessImages>  
For footage access: <https://asbestosawareness.box.com/v/Asbestos-Footage>

THE 2024 ASBESTOS AWARENESS CAMPAIGN IS ENTIRELY UNFUNDED & ONLY MADE POSSIBLE BY OUR SPONSORS



## ABOUT NATIONAL ASBESTOS AWARENESS MONTH CAMPAIGN

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- ◆ November is national Asbestos Awareness Month, an initiative of Advocacy Australia.
- ◆ National Asbestos Awareness Month aims to reduce asbestos-related diseases by educating Australians about the dangers of asbestos and how to manage it safely by driving traffic to Australia's leading, most comprehensive, trusted asbestos information source, [asbestosawareness.com.au](http://asbestosawareness.com.au).
- ◆ Asbestos Awareness Day (Asbestos Remembrance Day) is Friday 29 November 2024.
- ◆ 2024 marks 13 years of Australia's longest-running, multi-award winning annual Asbestos Awareness campaign warning homeowners, renovators and tradies of the dangers of asbestos.
- ◆ Since launching [asbestosawareness.com.au](http://asbestosawareness.com.au) in 2011 for Asbestos Awareness Week, we've grown the campaign into National Asbestos Awareness Month winning multiple peer-reviewed awards both nationally (7) and internationally (2) with the campaign acknowledged in parliaments across Australia and global medical journals as a leading initiative in the prevention of asbestos-related diseases.
- ◆ In December 2022, Advocacy Australia was recognised with two national industry awards for the 2021 National Asbestos Awareness Month campaign.

NOTE: Funding to keep the [asbestosawareness.com.au](http://asbestosawareness.com.au) website live and updated and for conducting the annual National Asbestos Awareness Month campaign has ceased. To continue the campaign and keep the website current and live beyond 2024, funding is desperately needed.

## THE 2024 CAMPAIGN MESSAGE

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**The main message we want people to hear in 2024 is what NOT to do with asbestos! Don't cut it! Don't drill it! Don't drop it! Don't sand it! Don't saw it! Don't scrape it! Don't scrub it! Don't dismantle it! Don't tip it! Don't waterblast it! Don't demolish it! Don't dump it! And whatever you do... DON'T remove it yourself!**

## WHY MUST THE CAMPAIGN MESSAGES REACH RENOVATORS & TRADESPEOPLE?

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Australians must learn to respect the invisible dangers of asbestos that lurks in one-in-three Aussie homes. Currently over 4,000 Australians die every year from asbestos-related diseases but the death toll is predicted to rise in coming years due to the volume of legacy asbestos that remains in the built environment.

Many homeowners know little of asbestos risks and think that only tradies are at risk of asbestos-related diseases but the reality contradicts this thinking. According to the most recent Australian Mesothelioma Registry (AMR) Report (April 2023), 83% of respondents were assessed as having had 'possible or probable' exposure to asbestos fibres in non-occupational settings – primarily in homes.

Of the patients surveyed, the dominant non-occupational exposure to asbestos fibres (51%) occurred when undertaking major home renovations. 38% said they'd lived in a house undergoing renovations. 20% said they'd lived in the same home as someone who was exposed to asbestos at work and brought the fibres home in dust, while 12% said they'd lived in a house made of fibro that was built between 1947 and 1987.

With Australia's asbestos-related death toll of predicted to rise, the Asbestos Education Committee is urging homeowners, property managers and tradies to learn how to manage asbestos safely by visiting Australia's leading source of asbestos information, [www.asbestosawareness.com.au](http://www.asbestosawareness.com.au)

## ASBESTOS AWARENESS RESOURCES

All resources provided to the public are free to access and download.

### ASBESTOS AWARENESS FACT SHEETS

A series of Fact Sheets outlining safe practices and how to work with asbestos have been developed for residential properties

- ◆ **FACT SHEET 1: Working Safely With Asbestos Around The Home:** A simple guide to ensure homeowners manage asbestos safely.
- ◆ **FACT SHEET 2: Safe Practices For Homeowners Repairing or Removing Small Amounts of Asbestos Materials:** A detailed guide to ensuring homeowners manage asbestos safely when repairing or removing small amounts of asbestos safely.
- ◆ **FACT SHEET 3: Safe Practices For Rural & Regional Homeowners & Farmers Repairing or Removing Small Amounts Of Asbestos Materials:** A simple guide ensuring safe practices for the management of asbestos in rural and regional communities and on farms.
- ◆ **FACT SHEET 4: PPE:** A simple guide ensuring safe practices for using PPE.

For more information visit: [asbestosawareness.com.au/fact-sheets](https://asbestosawareness.com.au/fact-sheets)



### ASBESTOS AWARENESS RESIDENTIAL CHECKLIST

The Asbestos Awareness Residential Checklist is designed to empower homeowners and renovators with a better understanding of the possible locations of asbestos-containing materials in homes and the knowledge they need to ensure it is managed safely.

The Checklist is free to download and provides a practical guide for homeowners enabling them to conduct a simple step-by-step easy to follow visual inspection of their property.

The Checklist includes product images and lists each possible location where asbestos-containing materials might be found both inside and outside homes. By following simple step-by-step instructions, in less than an hour homeowners can have a better understanding of the types of products that might be in their home and if it's in need of maintenance, repair or removal.



Importantly, if planning any renovation or refurbishment to their property such as replacing floorcoverings, fencing or roofing, homeowners will know in advance if they need to engage an occupational hygienist, a licenced asbestos assessor or removalist to ensure the work is done safely. The Checklist also enables homeowners to maintain a record of possible asbestos locations should work or renovations be anticipated in the future and monitor asbestos-containing materials to ensure they remain sealed.

For more information visit: [asbestosawareness.com.au/fact-sheets](https://asbestosawareness.com.au/fact-sheets)

### ASBESTOS IN YOUR HOME – THE ULTIMATE RENOVATORS GUIDE (ONLINE VIDEO)

Asbestos In Your Home – The Ultimate Renovators Guide online video is the leading visual information resource helping Australians identify the various locations in homes where asbestos might be found providing the most practical and easily accessible resource for homeowners, renovators and tradespersons.

Produced by Cherie Barber (National Asbestos Awareness Ambassador) and her Renovating for Profit team is presented in a reality TV format that Australians easily relate to. Featuring Cherie Barber (Australia's Renovation Queen), the video takes audiences on a 14:23 minute tour of a typical un-renovated Australian home and features special appearances by National Asbestos Awareness Ambassadors.



For more information visit: [asbestosawareness.com.au/asbestos-in-the-home/video-asbestos-in-your-home](https://asbestosawareness.com.au/asbestos-in-the-home/video-asbestos-in-your-home)

## THE ASBESTOS PRODUCTS DATABASE

The Asbestos Products Database is Australia's first and most extensive online resource to assist homeowners, renovators and tradespeople in identifying asbestos-containing materials so they can be managed safely. The database can be searched by residential location with information and photographs about the various product types that might be found specific to multiple areas including kitchens, bathrooms, living areas, laundries, exterior house etc. It is user friendly and provides multiple search options including products commonly used in Domestic Homes, Agricultural, Automotive, Commercial, Industrial, Marine, Plant and other options. People can also search by construction period and asbestos type. The database features 60 different product types and more than 550 product photographs with descriptions and locations where these products might be found in homes built or renovated prior to 1990. PDFs itemising product information can be downloaded if required.

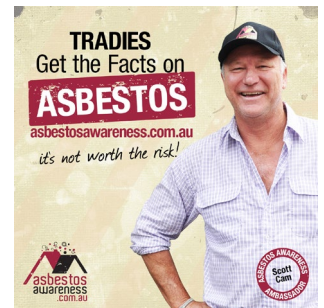


**For more information visit:** [asbestosawareness.com.au/asbestos-products-database](https://asbestosawareness.com.au/asbestos-products-database)

## RESIDENTIAL CHECKLIST FOR TRADIES: A TRADESPERSONS GUIDE TO ASBESTOS CONTAINING MATERIALS IN DOMESTIC PROPERTIES

Tradespersons are particularly at risk of exposure to asbestos because they can encounter it in their day-to-day work and all too often they've come from a culture where asbestos risks have been ignored.

The 'Residential Checklist for Tradies – A Tradespersons Guide to Asbestos Containing Materials in Domestic Properties' is a valuable tool for Tradies that increases their understanding of the various products they need to be wary of when working on residential properties to ensure they engage suitably qualified professionals to conduct asbestos-related work or remove asbestos-containing materials safely.



While tradies may have worked with asbestos in the past and ignored the warnings, they need to be aware that the more a person is exposed to fibres, the greater the risk of developing asbestos-related diseases so it's vital that they conduct visual inspections of properties to look for the potential dangers to ensure they're managed safely.

The Checklists provide instructions on how to conduct a visual inspection only and homeowners and tradies are encouraged to have an inspection conducted by an occupational hygienist or licenced asbestos assessor if they suspect asbestos-containing materials may be in need of repair or removal. **Tradespersons can access 27 various Asbestos Awareness Checklist resources** for domestic properties from [asbestosawareness.com.au](https://asbestosawareness.com.au) including instructions on how to conduct a house check and trade specific checklists.

**For more information visit:** [asbestosawareness.com.au/asbestos-for-tradies/tradies-fact-sheets](https://asbestosawareness.com.au/asbestos-for-tradies/tradies-fact-sheets)

## TRADIES - WHAT OCCUPATIONS MAY COME IN CONTACT WITH ASBESTOS IN THE WORKPLACE?

Carpenters, joiners, builders, bricklayers, painters and tilers, electricians, electricity industry supply workers, building maintenance workers, building construction and civil construction workers, plumbers, roofers, boilermakers, welders, metal and mechanical trades including fitters, turners, machinists, telecommunications technicians, landscapers, automotive repair workers, demolition workers, emergency services workers and their volunteers, landfill operators, waste disposal facility workers, ship and boat builders, marine engineers, waterside workers.

## MANAGEMENT OF ASBESTOS IN COMMERCIAL & NON-RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES RESOURCES

The resource package for Asbestos Management for Commercial and Non-Residential Properties was developed in accordance with the Work Health and Safety (WH&S) regulations, the Asbestos Codes of Practice; How to Manage and Control Asbestos in the Workplace, How to Safely Remove Asbestos and the Work Health and Safety Consultation Cooperation and Coordination.

The Handbook, Templates and Fact Sheets aim to provide those industries most affected by asbestos in commercial and non-residential properties with essential information to increase understanding of the responsibilities associated with asbestos management and the requirements for compliance with government regulations. The Asbestos in Commercial & Non-Residential Properties Resources package includes 13 resources FREE to download.



**For more information visit:** [asbestosawareness.com.au/commercial-properties/commercial-downloads](https://asbestosawareness.com.au/commercial-properties/commercial-downloads)

## NATURALLY OCCURRING ASBESTOS (NOA) MANAGEMENT GUIDE & RESOURCES

Known as Naturally Occurring Asbestos or NOA, it's found in some rocks, sediments and in soils and is not easily identified. The Naturally Occurring Asbestos – Asbestos Management Plan Guide and user-friendly templates are free and provide property managers, workers and farmers with information, recommendations and resources to develop an effective Asbestos Management Plan to manage NOA safely on properties where it may be present. It contains information on how to conduct a risk assessment, testing, training requirements for workers, safe work procedures, control measures and disposal.



For more information visit: [asbestosawareness.com.au/noa](https://asbestosawareness.com.au/noa)

## 20 POINT ASBESTOS SAFETY CHECK

1. At least 1 in 3 Australian homes contains asbestos including brick, weatherboard, fibro, clad homes and apartments.
2. Asbestos was widely used in the manufacture of building materials and other products prior to being phased out by 1990 and banned in 2003. Therefore:
  - ◆ If your home was built or renovated prior to 1987 it is 'highly likely' that it contains products incorporating asbestos.
  - ◆ If your home was built or renovated between 1987 and 1990 it is 'likely' it may contain asbestos-containing materials.
  - ◆ If your home was built or renovated after 1990 it is 'unlikely' that asbestos-containing materials will be present.
3. If asbestos is disturbed during renovations or maintenance, your health and the health of your family could be at risk.
4. DIY is not recommended where asbestos is present.
5. When renovating or working in and around homes, if in doubt assume asbestos materials are present and take every precaution.
6. Dealing with asbestos is important and serious, but it's not overwhelming – IT IS MANAGEABLE!
7. If you're not sure if asbestos is in your home you can have it inspected by a licenced removalist or a licensed asbestos assessor.
8. Products made from asbestos cement include fibro sheeting (flat and corrugated), water, drainage and flue pipes, roofing shingles, guttering and floor and wall coverings. It could be anywhere!
9. If you find asbestos in your home; Don't cut it! Don't drill it! Don't drop it! Don't sand it! Don't saw it! Don't scrape it! Don't scrub it! Don't dismantle it! Don't tip it! Don't waterblast it! Don't demolish it! And whatever you do... Don't dump it!"
10. If left undisturbed asbestos materials in good, stable condition are unlikely to release dangerous fibres and pose a health risk. Generally, you don't need to remove the asbestos. Paint it and leave it alone but remember to check it occasionally for any signs of wear and tear.
11. There are legal requirements regarding asbestos management, its removal and disposal.
12. While some might follow the regulations and safety requirements to remove small amounts of asbestos, the safest way to manage its removal is to retain a licenced professional asbestos removalist equipped to protect you and your family from the dangers of asbestos dust and fibres.
13. Where asbestos fibres are friable (loose and not bonded into building materials), ONLY licenced friable asbestos removalists are allowed to remove it.
14. Professional removal of asbestos is affordable. You can't afford not to use a professional!
15. The cost of asbestos removal by a licenced professional is comparable to most licenced tradesmen including electricians, plumbers and tilers.
16. The cost of disposal at a lawful site is often included with the cost of removal by a licenced professional.
17. If you must work with any material that may contain asbestos or remove asbestos yourself, protect yourself and your family and follow the legal and safety requirements for the management of asbestos to minimise the release of dust or small particles from the asbestos materials.
18. There are a number of safety precautions needed including wearing specific protective clothing, the correct mask or breathing apparatus and ensure you minimise dust and dispose of asbestos legally.
19. Never use tools on asbestos materials as they will make asbestos fibres airborne including:
  - a. Power tools such as electric drills, angle grinders, circular saws and electric sanders.
  - b. Never use high pressure water blasters or compressed air.
20. Stop playing renovation roulette! Visit [asbestosawareness.com.au](https://asbestosawareness.com.au) because it's not worth the risk!

For more information visit: [asbestosawareness.com.au/20-point-safety-check](https://asbestosawareness.com.au/20-point-safety-check)

## ASBESTOS & RENOVATING

### IS IT SAFE TO REMOVE ASBESTOS YOURSELF?

If you must remove asbestos yourself, you **MUST** take precautions! Removing asbestos can be a dangerous and complicated process. We recommend using only licenced professional removalists who will also dispose of it in accordance with regulations. However, if you are thinking about removing even a small amount of asbestos yourself, at the very minimum you should meticulously follow ALL of the steps listed at [asbestosawareness.com.au](http://asbestosawareness.com.au) in order to protect your health and the health of those around you including children. While it is legal for homeowners to remove up to 10 square metres of non-friable asbestos in every state and territory except the ACT, Asbestos Awareness recommends **ONLY** using licenced asbestos removalists.

The important point is this: if you need to work with materials that may contain asbestos, you must work so there is a minimal release of fibres, dust or small particles from the asbestos materials. It is recommended that if you are considering removing or working with asbestos yourself, you undertake a training course to ensure you have the training to do it safely.

**IMPORTANT:** If the asbestos is in powder form or can be crumbled, pulverised or reduced to powder by hand pressure when dry, it must be removed by an asbestos removal contractor with a friable asbestos licence.

### Rough Guide To Costs\*

- Scientific testing of asbestos at a NATA accredited lab varies from between \$50-250
- A pre-purchase Asbestos Home Inspection by a licensed inspector is approximately \$600-1500
- Asbestos waste to be disposed of legally costs around \$575 per tonne ( 1 tonne minimum). Asbestos waste can only be accepted at lawful sites and some might require notice or pre-booking. To locate your closest asbestos disposal facility visit the Asbestos Safety & Eradication Agency's disposal database
- A licensed removalist starts at around \$200m<sup>2</sup> for the first 10m<sup>2</sup> and usually includes legal disposal. Larger removal projects will have a reduced rate due to "economies of scale".
- External cladding from an average house is around \$5,000-10,000 +GST
- Asbestos contaminated soil removal starts at \$350-600 +GST per tonne

\*NB: Prices listed above are estimates only and would vary depending on individual circumstances such as size, geographical location, physical location of ACM, height, other external cladding covering etc

### ASBESTOS WASTE DISPOSAL

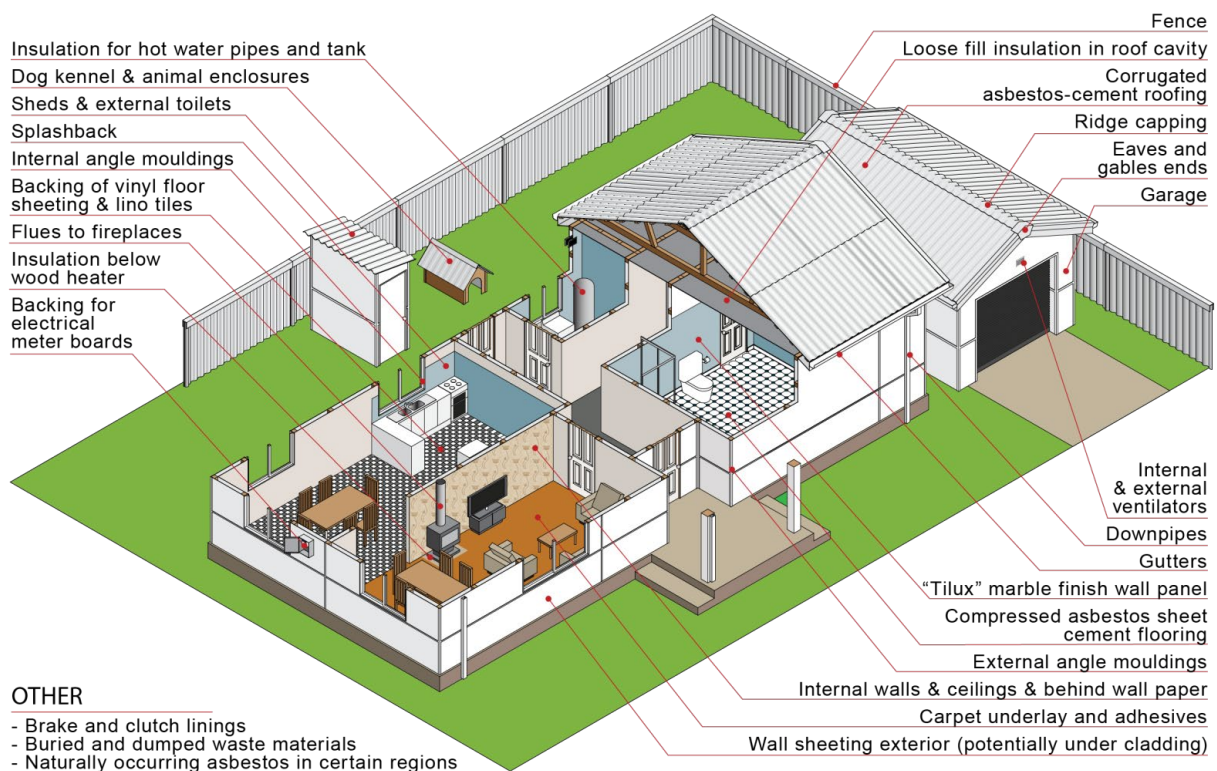
- ♦ Asbestos waste can **ONLY** be disposed of at authorised landfills.
- ♦ You must first contact your local council and visit [www.asbestossafety.gov.au/who-contact/search-disposal-facilities](http://www.asbestossafety.gov.au/who-contact/search-disposal-facilities) to locate your nearest licenced waste landfill site.
- ♦ Ensure asbestos waste has been wetted, wrapped in 200um thick plastic, and sealed with tape before it is transported to a landfill site that may lawfully receive the waste.
- ♦ It must be clearly labelled as "asbestos waste".
- ♦ It must be transported in a covered, leak-proof vehicle.
- ♦ It is wise to keep copies of receipts from landfills where asbestos was taken as councils or the Environment Protection Authority in your state or territory may require you to produce these receipts as proof of proper disposal.

## WHERE MIGHT ASBESTOS BE LOCATED IN HOMES?

Australians may unknowingly put their health and the health of families, children, and neighbours at risk because they don't know the dangers of asbestos or where it might be found in and around homes. Products made from bonded asbestos cement that may have been used in your home include:

- ◆ Fibro sheeting (flat and corrugated) which may have been used in internal walls and ceilings, external walls and cladding, infill panels in windows and doors, eaves, fencing, carports, backyard sheds and dog kennels, electrical switchboards, sheeting under floor tiles, bathroom walls, backing to floor tiles and sheet vinyl, carpet underlay, and the backing behind the ceramic wall tiles and textile seals to the oven.
- ◆ Water drainage & flue pipes.
- ◆ Roofing shingles & guttering.
- ◆ In some homes, loose-fill asbestos was used in ceiling space as insulation in homes in NSW and the ACT.

**IMPORTANT:** If fire, hail or water blasting damages non-friable asbestos, it may become friable asbestos material and must be managed and removed by a licenced Friable Asbestos Removallist.



## DANGERS OF ASBESTOS AND DIY

Asbestos exposure has been linked to DIY renovating! In the past Australians diagnosed with malignant mesothelioma has primarily been men exposed to asbestos through work-related exposure. Today there is a growing body of evidence that more people including women are being diagnosed through non-occupational exposure including during home renovations.

If asbestos is disturbed during renovations or in the demolition of homes containing asbestos, fibres can be released into the air and be inhaled. Inhaled fibres increase the risk of developing malignant mesothelioma or lung cancer.

A study by A/Professor Eun-Kee Park et al into 'Asbestos exposure during home renovation in New South Wales' showed:

- ◆ **61.4% of do it yourself (DIY) renovators reported being exposed** to asbestos during home renovations.
- ◆ **39.3% reported their partner and 22.8% reported their children** were also exposed to asbestos during home DIY home renovations.
- ◆ Non DIY renovators were less likely to be exposed or have their families exposed.
- ◆ **59.2% of DIY renovators had contact with AC Fibro Sheeting** – this was the most common activity resulting in asbestos exposure.
- ◆ Thus asbestos exposure is common during home renovations.



## LEGAL REQUIREMENTS IN YOUR STATE AND TERRITORY WHEN WORKING WITH ASBESTOS

Regulations about asbestos management may vary in each Australian state and territory so homeowners and renovators can visit [asbestosawareness.com.au](http://asbestosawareness.com.au) for information on asbestos management, for specific state legislation relevant to their home state visit:

- ◆ Australian Capital Territory: [asbestostaskforce.act.gov.au](http://asbestostaskforce.act.gov.au)
- ◆ New South Wales: [asbestos.nsw.gov.au](http://asbestos.nsw.gov.au)
- ◆ Northern Territory: [asbestos.nt.gov.au](http://asbestos.nt.gov.au)
- ◆ Queensland: [asbestos.qld.gov.au](http://asbestos.qld.gov.au)
- ◆ South Australia: [asbestos.sa.gov.au](http://asbestos.sa.gov.au)
- ◆ Tasmania: [worksafe.tas.gov.au/asbestos](http://worksafe.tas.gov.au/asbestos)
- ◆ Victoria [www.asbestos.vic.gov.au](http://www.asbestos.vic.gov.au)
- ◆ Western Australia
  - Asbestos in the Home – WA [healthywa.wa.gov.au/asbestos](http://healthywa.wa.gov.au/asbestos)
  - Asbestos in the Workplace – WA [commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/asbestos](http://commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/asbestos)

## NSW Regulations Example – Regulations that are common to most States and Territories

In NSW, the Government has regulations in force to protect you, your family, the environment and the community when you are working with asbestos. Legal requirements relating to asbestos include:

- ◆ It is illegal to dispose of asbestos waste in domestic garbage bins.
- ◆ It is illegal to re-use or recycle asbestos products.
- ◆ It is illegal to dump asbestos products.
- ◆ Power tools should not be used unless the dust is captured or suppressed.
- ◆ It is illegal to waterblast asbestos cement sheets (fibro).
- ◆ Only licenced asbestos removalists can remove asbestos of 10 square metres or more.
- ◆ Only licenced Friable Asbestos Removalists are able to handle or remove friable asbestos.
- ◆ Licenced removalists are to notify SafeWork NSW of asbestos removal 5 days before removing friable asbestos or greater than 10 square metres of non-friable asbestos.
- ◆ All licenced contractors must give you a copy of their licence. You should ask to see their licence when hiring an asbestos removalist to ensure they have a current licence.
- ◆ 10 square metres is equivalent to the size of a typical bedroom wall in an average home or about the size of a small bathroom or an outside toilet or shed.
- ◆ All asbestos removal is to be in accordance with the Code of Practice How To Safely Remove Asbestos.
- ◆ It is illegal to bury asbestos on your own property.
- ◆ All asbestos must be legally disposed of at a lawful landfill site. Not every landfill site is authorised to accept asbestos.
- ◆ Your council may also have policies regarding the removal of asbestos so visit your council's website to find out what's required.
- ◆ To learn more information about working safely with asbestos please visit [asbestosawareness.com.au](http://asbestosawareness.com.au).

## ASBESTOS AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

### CELEBRATING 13 YEARS PROVIDING LIFESAVING INFORMATION

Now in its thirteenth year, Australia's first comprehensive, integrated Asbestos Awareness campaign and [asbestosawareness.com.au](http://asbestosawareness.com.au) continues to increase awareness of the dangers of asbestos to prevent asbestos-related diseases among Australians. Since funding for the campaign ceased in December 2017 and funding for hosting [asbestosawareness.com.au](http://asbestosawareness.com.au) website ceased in February 2020, these community health awareness and education initiatives have been conducted pro-bono by Insight Communications supported by web developer's I-NEX with artwork provided by Creative Director Gemma Waite of Moth Creative and now supported by Advocacy Australia. Please see link: <https://advocacyaustralia.org.au/>.

**Funding is desperately needed to enable the campaign and the website, [asbestosawareness.com.au](http://asbestosawareness.com.au) to continue.**

#### Australia's leading National Asbestos Awareness Month Campaign

National Asbestos Awareness Month (1-30 November) is Australia's leading multi-award-winning asbestos awareness and community education campaign in the prevention of asbestos-related diseases. With asbestos-related diseases continuing to increase among Australians as a direct result of exposure to asbestos fibres during home renovations or in the workplace; the importance of increasing awareness and educating Australians on how to manage asbestos safely in accordance with regulations cannot be overstated.

#### In 2011, we launched Asbestos Awareness Week in NSW with the first [asbestosawareness.com.au](http://asbestosawareness.com.au) website

The week-long campaign held in the last week of November to coincide with Asbestos Awareness Day, was aimed at increasing awareness of the dangers of asbestos among homeowners and renovators to drive traffic to [asbestosawareness.com.au](http://asbestosawareness.com.au) where homeowners could access vital information on how to manage asbestos safely.

#### In 2012, Asbestos Awareness Week was rolled it out as Australia's first integrated national campaign

The National week-long campaign aimed at engaging homeowners and renovators had been hugely successful in increasing the number of Australian's accessing information on the website. However, research determined that although our week-long campaign continued to gain traction in engaging communities nationally; by extending the campaign to become National Asbestos Awareness Month, we would engage a greater number of people to prevent asbestos exposure.

#### In 2013, we launched Australia's first National Asbestos Awareness Month campaign

Australia's first National Asbestos Awareness Month achieved wide-spread awareness of the dangers of asbestos and provided more practical resources to help homeowners and renovators manage asbestos safely.

#### National Asbestos Awareness Month in the prevention of asbestos-related diseases

Since 2013, we've continued to develop an extensive volume of user-friendly resources for homeowners. We've also expanded the scope of the campaign to include tradies, domestic and commercial property owners and managers, as well as those living and working in regional Australia where naturally occurring asbestos exists. By extending Asbestos Awareness Week to become National Asbestos Awareness Month we increased opportunities to advance community awareness and education to prevent asbestos-related diseases.

#### Community Engagement & "Betty" the Asbestos Education House

In an Australian first, the National Asbestos Awareness campaign has consistently engaged businesses and councils to share vital information to help save lives with 100% of councils registering their support and actively participating in the campaign. Part of the success in engaging communities can be attributed to "Betty" the Asbestos Education House. Betty is a purpose built, mobile model home designed to demonstrate where asbestos might be found in and around any Australian home built or renovated prior to 1990. From 2012 to 2017, Betty visited hundreds of communities around Sydney and regularly toured throughout NSW, primarily exhibiting at community events, council activities and DIY or renovation expos to educate Australians about asbestos dangers. Betty has toured more than 65,000 kilometres throughout every state and territory within Australia except WA. She has held 203 media calls, appeared in 1032 media pieces, and visited 51 Bunnings stores across NSW, VIC, QLD, NT, TAS and SA. When Betty is on the road, website traffic increases 190%.



Watch [Betty on The Open Road](#) about Betty's development or the [2016 Asbestos Awareness Month Tour of NT, SA and far west NSW](#).

#### National Asbestos Awareness Month, "Betty" and [asbestosawareness.com.au](http://asbestosawareness.com.au) garners international recognition

The National Asbestos Awareness Month campaign, "Betty" the Asbestos Education House and [asbestosawareness.com.au](http://asbestosawareness.com.au) are internationally acclaimed by academics, researchers, asbestos support groups and industry leaders for continuing to successfully generate wide-spread community awareness of asbestos risks while providing accessible resources for homeowners, renovators, tradespersons and commercial, domestic and rural property owners and managers.

## Key Campaign Achievements

- ◆ **Won 11 Awards:** 3 international, 3 national, 5 state and has received **10 recognitions** in State and Federal parliaments
- ◆ **Asbestos Awareness website** has:
  - Received over **2.5 million pageviews**.
  - Had over **1.2 million sessions**.
  - Welcomed over **780,000 unique users**.
  - Averaged 11,000 users per month in 2021; a 32% increase on 2020. November averages a 37% increase on average months.
  - Average 23,231 pageviews per month in 2021; 26% increase on 2020. November's have a 76% increase on average months.
- ◆ **Resources**
  - Over **1500 resources** are available to the public to download. **107 are flyers, fact sheets, posters and templates** with the remaining being images, graphics, presentations and videos.
  - These resources have been **accessed over 600,000 times**

## Asbestos Awareness Campaign Links

Since the campaign launched in 2011, it's been recognised by leading scientists, researchers, advocates and in Australian parliaments with its ongoing success published in recognised journals. The links below provide a glimpse of the campaign's reach in 10 years.

1. 2011 - Sydney's Asbestos Concerns – [Channel 10 News](#)
2. 2011 - Asbestos Danger – [ABC Behind The News](#)
3. 2011 - [Asbestos Diseases Research Institute Annual Report](#)
4. 2012 - Asbestos risk for female renovators – [The Weekend Australian](#)
5. 2012 - Asbestos Awareness – [Channel 10 News](#)
6. 2013 - Home Renovators warned to be asbestos aware – [SBS NEWS](#)
7. 2013 - Asbestos Awareness Campaign – [The Hon. Marie Ficara - Parliament of NSW](#) - Legislative Council Hansard
8. 2013 - National Asbestos Awareness Month – [The Hon. Marie Ficara - Parliament of NSW](#) - Legislative Council Hansard
9. 2014 - [Australian Asbestos Awareness Campaign Receives Prestigious International Award](#) – International Ban Asbestos Secretariat
10. 2015 - Don Burke's Warning on DIY Dangers – [A Current Affair Channel 9](#)
11. 2015 - [Asbestos Awareness Down Under](#) Laurie Kazan-Allen – International Ban Asbestos Secretariat
12. 2016 - [Why The Health Threat From Asbestos Is Not A Thing Of The Past](#), Tom Douglas – [University of Oxford](#)
13. 2016 - Asbestos In Your Home, [Cherie Barber – Renovating For Profit](#)
14. 2017 - November is National Asbestos Awareness Month – [Cancer Council WA](#)
15. 2017 - November is National Asbestos Awareness Month – [Plumbing Connection](#)
16. 2017 - Betty the ADRI house brings asbestos awareness – [Cowra Guardian](#)
17. 2017 - John Jarratt leads the call for awareness of asbestos, including naturally occurring asbestos – [Central West Daily](#)
18. 2018 - November is Asbestos Awareness Month – [SafeWork NSW](#)
19. 2018 - National Asbestos Awareness Month – [NSW EPA](#)
20. 2018 - Don't Mess With Asbestos [FM Magazine](#)
21. 2018 - November is Asbestos Awareness Month – [3M Science. Applied to Life™](#)
22. 2018 - Soeberg M, Vallance DA, Keena V, Takahashi K, Leigh J. [Australia's ongoing legacy of asbestos: significant challenges remain even after the complete banning of asbestos almost fifteen years ago](#). Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2018 Feb;15(2).
23. 2019 - Asbestos Awareness Month Events [Cumberland Council](#)
24. 2020 - Asbestos disease death toll in Australia 'higher than Covid-19' – [The Senior](#)
25. 2020 - Be Aware of the Silent Killer, Tamra Carr – [The West Australian](#)
26. 2021 - Retirees on a mission to save lives – Steve Marshall - [A Current Affair](#)

## BLUE LAMINGTON DRIVE – DRIVING AWARENESS OF THE DANGERS OF ASBESTOS IN COMMUNITIES

Asbestos Awareness Month is an initiative of the Asbestos Education Committee and Advocacy Australia. As part of Asbestos Awareness Month, businesses and communities are invited to host a Blue Lamington Drive morning or afternoon tea at the workplace or at home to help educate families, friends and colleagues about the dangers of asbestos and where they can learn how to manage it safely at [asbestosawareness.com.au](http://asbestosawareness.com.au).

A Blue Lamington event provides an informal social forum to encourage wide-spread discussion about how people in our community can better manage asbestos in and around homes while raising funds to support the vital national Asbestos Awareness Month campaign to help save lives.



The national Blue Lamington Drive provides a forum for Councils, businesses, associations, schools and community groups to raise awareness of the dangers of asbestos in and around homes while raising vital funds to assist asbestos support group services and the Asbestos Diseases Research Institute.

Anyone can hold a Blue Lamington Drive at home, at work or at school. It's fun and easy to do. By holding a Blue Lamington Drive event, Australians will help raise awareness among colleagues, family, friends, neighbours, schools, professionals and the wider community of the dangers of asbestos when renovating or maintaining homes. And, in collecting donations, will raise vital funds to support this essential campaign to prevent asbestos-related diseases including mesothelioma which is an incurable cancer that can develop as a direct result of exposure to asbestos fibres.

**To register a Blue Lamington event please visit: [bluelamington.com.au.au](http://bluelamington.com.au.au)**

## ADVOCACY AUSTRALIA

Advocacy Australia addresses health-related issues to further the rights of all Australians (including children and vulnerable adults) to enjoy the highest standard of physical and mental health.

Advocacy Australia addresses health and safety issues for families, children and workers at home, in the workplace and across the community through conducting national, state and localised public health awareness and education campaigns including raising awareness of preventable diseases such as those caused from exposure to asbestos fibres and by promoting best practice in occupational settings to improve health and safety in workplace environments.



Australia was among the highest consumers of asbestos globally and has one of the highest incidences of mesothelioma in the world with a steady increase in recorded cases over the past 40 years. With a staggering 4000 deaths each year from asbestos-related diseases including asbestosis and lung cancer, and an alarming number of deaths from mesothelioma attributed to both occupational and non-occupational avoidable exposure to asbestos fibres; to save lives, under our health mandate, Advocacy Australia conducts the annual national Asbestos Awareness Month campaign during November to increase awareness of the dangers of asbestos and to educate the wider community on how to manage asbestos-containing materials safely.

**For more information visit: [advocacyaustralia.org.au](http://advocacyaustralia.org.au)**