



# ASBESTOS ARE YOU PLAYING RENOVATION ROULETTE?

ASBESTOSAWARENESS.COM.AU



GET TO  
**KNOW**  
**NO**  
**ASBESTOS**  
THIS NOVEMBER

2014 ASBESTOS AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

## COUNCIL INFORMATION PACK

Prepared By

Insight Communications for

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

THE REASON BEHIND ASBESTOS AWARENESS MONTH ..... 3

ASBESTOS AWARENESS MONTH CAMPAIGN - NOVEMBER ..... 4

CAMPAIGN AMBASSADORS - ADVERTISING - TELEVISION ..... 5

ASBESTOS EXPOSURE HAS BEEN DIRECTLY LINKED TO DIY RENOVATIONS! ..... 6

KEY FACTS ABOUT ASBESTOS IN THE HOME ..... 6

BENEFITS TO PARTICIPATING COUNCILS ..... 7

2014 ASBESTOS AWARENESS MONTH CAMPAIGN AWARDS ..... 7

CAMPAIGN RESOURCES FOR COUNCIL PARTICIPANTS ..... 9

BETTY - THE ADRI HOUSE ..... 10

HOW TO HOST A BLUE LAMINGTON DRIVE ..... 11

CAMPAIGN KEY MESSAGES ..... 12

ASBESTOS IN & AROUND THE HOME ..... 14

ASBESTOS IN HOMES DIAGRAM ..... 15

ASBESTOS EDUCATION COMMITTEE & ASBESTOS AWARENESS MONTH (NOVEMBER) ..... 16

ASBESTOS DISEASES RESEARCH INSTITUTE ..... 16

ASBESTOS-RELATED DISEASES ..... 17



WHAT ARE THE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS WHEN WORKING WITH ASBESTOS IN ALL STATES AND TERRITORIES? ..... 18

 [www.insightcommunications.net.au](http://www.insightcommunications.net.au)

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## THE REASON BEHIND ASBESTOS AWARENESS MONTH

Asbestos Awareness Month is the initiative of the Asbestos Education Committee working in partnership with the Asbestos Diseases Research Institute and is supported by various Asbestos Support Groups and governments.

Asbestos Awareness Month aims to alert Australians about the dangers of working with asbestos during home renovations and maintenance. With Australia having one of the highest incidences of asbestos related cancers in the world, and with confirmed cases of asbestos related cancers continuing to increase as a result of home maintenance and renovation, exposure to asbestos fibres is considered a major threat to the health of Australians.

EVERY home built or renovated before the mid 1980's is likely to contain asbestos. If left undisturbed asbestos generally does not pose a health risk. However, when disturbed during renovations and home maintenance, asbestos fibres can be released into the air and when inhaled, can cause life-threatening diseases including lung cancer, pleural disease, asbestosis and mesothelioma, an incurable, terminal cancer.

Home renovations, particularly DIY are continuing to increase nationally. With a median gap of 40 years between exposure and diagnosis, and with a large number of people diagnosed with mesothelioma as a result of renovating or maintaining homes, the importance of education about the dangers of asbestos to homeowners cannot be overstated. Working in partnership with the internationally recognised Asbestos Diseases Research Institute, Asbestos Awareness Month is the initiative of the Asbestos Education Committee, established to promote education campaigns enabling the Australian public to learn about the dangers of asbestos and how to manage it safely, in and around the home, specifically when renovating.

Prior to asbestos being banned in Australia in 2003, those most affected by asbestos were asbestos miners and their families, (first wave) followed by tradesman such as builders, plumbers and electricians and their families (second wave) exposed to fibres brought home on worker's clothing. With scientific studies demonstrating that current asbestos exposure is directly linked to DIY renovations, and with every Australian home built or renovated prior to 1987 likely to contain asbestos, the acknowledged 'Third Wave' of victims of asbestos related diseases are homeowners and families exposed during home renovations or maintenance.

In 2011, the Asbestos Education Committee ran their inaugural Asbestos Awareness Week which gained significant state and national media coverage. In 2012, the campaign was expanded to include all Australian states and territories, a community service announcement for radio and television and the world first interactive, experiential asbestos education exhibit, Betty - The ADRI House, a mobile home build to demonstrate where asbestos can be found in the home. In 2013, the campaign was extended from an awareness week to become national Asbestos Awareness Month to emphasise the importance of the messaging and to allow organisations like Councils to have maximum opportunity to participate in the campaign.

In 2014 we hope all councils nationally will participate to help raise awareness of the dangers of asbestos to homeowners, tradesmen and handymen in their communities. Please see these links demonstrating the importance of the campaign.

- ⊙ **ABC National News** - <http://www.abc.net.au/7.30/content/2011/s3372459.htm>
- ⊙ **ABC Lateline** - <http://www.abc.net.au/lateline/content/2013/s3850088.htm>
- ⊙ **Channel 10 National News** - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=osuSjgQLq68&feature=share>
- ⊙ **BTN Children's News (ABC TV)** - <http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s3374195.htm>
- ⊙ **Asbestos Awareness Website** - <http://www.asbestosawareness.com.au/>

## ASBESTOS AWARENESS MONTH CAMPAIGN - NOVEMBER

### PURPOSE OF THE CAMPAIGN

1. To educate homeowners, potential homeowners and their families, renovators, tradesmen and handymen throughout Australia, about the risks of asbestos when renovating and/or maintaining homes, and;
2. To engage support from stakeholders including media, councils and organisations to promote the campaign and the asbestosawareness.com.au website where Australians can find the information they need to manage asbestos in the home, safely.



### GENERAL PUBLIC TARGET AUDIENCES

1. DIY renovators.
2. Homeowners and their families throughout Australia.
3. Women – primary drivers for home renovation and decorating, and the primary carers of family health.
4. Home buyers.
5. Consumers of renovation products and services including kitchens and bathrooms.
6. Home handyman services, and
7. Tradesmen.

### CAMPAIGN OBJECTIVES

1. Alert homeowners to the dangers of asbestos when renovating or undertaking home maintenance and drive targets to seek asbestos education resources from asbestosawareness.com.au.
2. Educate the wider Australian community about the legal requirements regarding asbestos.
3. Target residential groups to discourage DIY where asbestos is present and encourage professional removal.
4. Increase knowledge of precautions to minimise exposure to renovators and their families.
5. Improve understanding of removal processes and legal requirements.
6. Target residential groups to warn of the dangers of cutting, drilling, sanding, dismantling and demolishing.
7. Deliver messages about the importance of using licensed asbestos removal services and deliver messages re the cost of licensed removal services to change the perception of publics;
  - i. From: It's expensive to pay a licenced removalist.
  - ii. To: It's an expected part of the over-all cost of a renovation – a small price to pay to protect you and your family's health.
8. Deliver messages about the dangers of dumping asbestos to change the perception of targets;
  - i. From: It's okay to dump asbestos.
  - ii. To: It's NOT okay and it's NOT safe to dump asbestos! It is damaging to the environment and the people/children who may disturb it after it's dumped!

### REFERENCE TO WEBSITES

The primary information resources for people wishing to learn about how best to manage asbestos in and around the home is the leading website, asbestosawareness.com.au. It is important to make reference to the following websites where the community can access vital information about managing asbestos safely in the home.

1. Visit [www.asbestosawareness.com.au](http://www.asbestosawareness.com.au) to find out where you might find asbestos in the home and how to manage it safely.
2. Visit [www.adri.org.au](http://www.adri.org.au) to find out more about research into asbestos diseases.



## CAMPAIGN AMBASSADORS - ADVERTISING - TELEVISION

The 2014 Asbestos Awareness Month Campaign is supported by celebrity ambassadors, high quality television and radio commercials and television lifestyle programs.

### AMBASSADORS

Asbestos Awareness Month has the support of a number of celebrity ambassadors including; Cherie Barber (Australia's Queen of Renovating), Don Burke, Scott Cam, John Jarratt, Scott McGregor and Lindsay Farris who was the face and voice of the advertising component of the campaign.



### ADVERTISING & MARKETING

In 2012 and 2013 we undertook to promote the campaign through high quality television and radio ads that featured as Community Service Announcements nationally to drive traffic to the website.

Both the TVC and the radio ads can be downloaded by Councils from our website and these have been used by many Councils on their websites as well as the radio ads used as telephone on-hold messaging to promote asbestos awareness in their local communities.

To view the TVC visit [www.asbestosawareness.com.au](http://www.asbestosawareness.com.au).

### TELEVISION PARTNERS

In 2012 and 2013, we worked closely with Better Homes and Gardens and The Block to deliver this important message to homeowners. In 2014 we aim to once again work with various television lifestyle programs to cross promote asbestos awareness via their website and through the ambassadorship of Scott Cam.

It is our aim to secure support from additional networks and relevant television programs to support the 2014 Asbestos Awareness Month Campaign.



## ASBESTOS EXPOSURE HAS BEEN DIRECTLY LINKED TO DIY RENOVATIONS!

The need to educate ALL Australians about the dangers of asbestos is vital! A study (MJA in press) by Professor Anthony Johnson et al into 'The prevalence of self-reported asbestos exposure during home renovation in NSW residents' showed:

- ⊙ **60.5% of do it yourself (DIY) renovators** reported being exposed to asbestos during home renovations.
- ⊙ **53% reported their partner and 40% 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.
- ⊙ **58% of DIY renovators cut AC Fibro Sheeting** – this was the most common activity resulting in asbestos exposure.
- ⊙ **37% of DIY renovators reported using a power tool** to cut asbestos products.

**Thus asbestos exposure is common during home renovations.**

**AUSTRALIANS NEED TO LEARN THE DANGERS OF ASBESTOS WHEN RENOVATING OR MAINTAINING HOMES!**

## KEY FACTS ABOUT ASBESTOS IN THE HOME

1. Every home built or renovated in the years leading up to 1987, most likely contains asbestos!
2. A conservative estimate is that 1 in 3 homes in Australia contains asbestos including brick.
3. If asbestos is undisturbed it generally does not pose a health risk.
4. Many Australians may unknowingly be putting their health and the health of their children, and neighbours at risk because they don't really understand the dangers of working with asbestos or know where it might be found in and around their home.
5. During renovations or the demolition of homes containing asbestos, asbestos fibres can be released into the air and be inhaled leading to asbestosis, lung cancer and mesothelioma.
6. Not only homes constructed of fibro contain asbestos. Asbestos may be found in every room in the home. It may be behind wall and floor tiles, in walls, ceilings, under floor coverings including lino and carpet and around hot water systems.
7. Only scientific testing of a sample of material by an accredited National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) asbestos testing laboratory can confirm the presence of asbestos. For information on testing and accredited laboratories in your area, visit [www.nata.asn.au](http://www.nata.asn.au) or call (03) 9274 8200.
8. If asbestos materials are in good condition, paint them and leave them alone.

**ASBESTOS CAN BE IN ANY  
HOME BUILT OR RENOVATED  
BEFORE 1987.**



## BENEFITS TO PARTICIPATING COUNCILS

Since engaging the support of councils nationally a number of councils have joined in actively participating in the Asbestos Awareness Week campaign at various levels of involvement.

In 2014, we hope ALL Councils throughout Australia will participate in this initiative. By conducting the campaign throughout the month of November, every Council nationally has a broad time period in which to action activities to engage with their communities.

### HOW TO REGISTER YOUR PARTICIPATION

Councils Australia-wide are invited to participate in Asbestos Awareness Month 2014 with numerous benefits to those local governments who participate.

Councils are the first point of contact with their communities. By participating in the campaign, Councils actively engage with their community to promote awareness of asbestos in and around homes and the dangers to homeowners, renovators, tradesmen and handymen when asbestos is disturbed.

Importantly, participation in the campaign can also aid in preventing the dumping of asbestos in communities by raising awareness of the issue through local media and events.

### BENEFITS TO PARTICIPATING COUNCILS INCLUDE

- ⊙ Awareness of council taking a leadership role in addressing asbestos issues at a local level.
- ⊙ Media coverage of council's proactive approach to asbestos.
- ⊙ Inform your constituents about the safe management of asbestos.
- ⊙ Reduce incidences of unsafe asbestos management practices.
- ⊙ Reduce incidences of illegal dumping of asbestos products.
- ⊙ Recognition as being a major contributor to Asbestos Awareness Month on [asbestosawareness.com.au](http://asbestosawareness.com.au).
- ⊙ Low cost to participate - access to pre-prepared relevant information and images.
- ⊙ Leverage council's brand in line with national media and advertising.

### EASE OF USE FOR COUNCIL PARTICIPANTS

To make it easy for Council to participate, all campaign collateral is easily downloadable from the [asbestosawareness.com.au](http://asbestosawareness.com.au) website including; posters, flyers, pre-prepared media templates, photographs of asbestos products commonly found in homes, copy and graphics for print and online use, and the Asbestos Awareness website logo which can be utilised in all Council collateral to promote awareness including on websites and social media pages.

### REGISTERING COUNCIL PARTICIPATION IS EASY

To access all council materials, you need to register your participation in the campaign.

- ⊙ To register, visit the Asbestos Awareness Month page on [www.asbestosawareness.com.au](http://www.asbestosawareness.com.au) and click participate.
- ⊙ Once registered, you will be emailed the secure login password. To download materials visit the downloads page and click the 'secure login' button on the top right of the downloads page.
- ⊙ Enter your password and all 'Council Participation' materials are available.
- ⊙ You can download the entire folder, specific folders or individual files. The choice is up to you.

### SOCIAL MEDIA

# Hashtags	Facebook
#asbestosawareness	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/BettytheADRIhouse">https://www.facebook.com/BettytheADRIhouse</a>
#bluelamington	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/bluelamington">https://www.facebook.com/bluelamington</a>
#gettoknowasbestos	



## 2014 ASBESTOS AWARENESS MONTH CAMPAIGN AWARDS

Councils and Organisations who actively participate in the Asbestos Awareness Month Campaign will be eligible to enter the 2014 Asbestos Awareness Month Campaign Awards. Details of the awards are available on [asbestosawareness.com.au](http://asbestosawareness.com.au) in the Asbestos Awareness Month section.

To be eligible for the awards entrants must register their intended participation in Asbestos Awareness Month before the conclusion of November. Only registered participants will be eligible for the awards and will be contacted after registration with details of how to submit an award entry submission.

### 2014 ASBESTOS AWARENESS MONTH CAMPAIGN AWARDS CATEGORIES

#### Council Awards

- ⊙ Most Innovative Asbestos Awareness Month Council Campaigner: National
  - ⊙ Most Active Asbestos Awareness Month Campaigner: Metropolitan Council\*
  - ⊙ Most Active Asbestos Awareness Month Campaigner: Regional Council\*
- \* One Metropolitan & Regional award will be issued to a council in each state and territory

#### General Awards

- ⊙ Best Asbestos Awareness Month Campaigner: Association or Community Group
- ⊙ Best Asbestos Awareness Month Campaigner: Business or Corporate
- ⊙ Best Asbestos Awareness Month Campaigner: Government Department or Organisation
- ⊙ Best Asbestos Awareness Month Campaigner: Individual



NSW Farmers Association



Woolworths Forbes



Condobolin Agricultural Society



Dubbo City Council



Orange City Council



Walcha Shire Council



## CAMPAIGN RESOURCES FOR COUNCIL PARTICIPANTS

To assist Councils we have pre-prepared a variety of resources that can be easily downloaded from the Downloads page at [asbestosawareness.com.au](http://asbestosawareness.com.au).

### ASBESTOS AWARENESS CAMPAIGN RESOURCES PROVIDED TO COUNCIL

1. Audio Visual:
  - i. Radio ads – for use in place of “on hold” music for telephone systems.
  - ii. Television ads – for use in Council shop-front displays if relevant.
2. Blue Lamington Downloads – information to promote a Blue Lamington Doo (morning or afternoon tea for staff and community stakeholders).
3. Briefing Notes.
4. Brochures and Flyers – in both print-ready files and in PDFs.
  - i. English and multilingual posters (A4/A3) and flyers
5. Council Information Kit (this document).
6. Images & Graphics:
  - i. Graphics – Asbestos Awareness Logo, website banner tiles, email signature for use in outgoing emails.
  - ii. Photographs of asbestos products and other relevant images.
7. Media Release:
  - i. Media Release templates for Awareness Month and a Blue Lamington events - Council may add their logo, a quote from Mayor and distribute to your local print, radio and if relevant, television media.
  - ii. Background Promotional Copy – 50, 100, 115, 150, 300, 350 and 500 words.
8. Pull-Up Banner artwork which include house diagram and photographs.
9. Web Tiles & Email Signature.

### ACTIVITIES THAT COUNCILS ARE INVITED TO UNDERTAKE

1. Distribute media release to promote council’s support for asbestos awareness.
2. Feature the Asbestos Awareness Logo on all council material to promote the website.
3. Feature Asbestos Awareness Banner Tiles and links to [asbestosawareness.com.au](http://asbestosawareness.com.au):
  - a) Include details about Asbestos Awareness Month on your ‘What’s On’ or ‘News’ pages.
  - b) Include general asbestos awareness information and URL link on your environment, development & planning, waste management or asbestos management webpages so information is accessible all year round for homeowners.
4. Mention asbestos awareness in the Mayoral column.
5. Publish information in council’s e-newsletter and newsletter.
6. Publish information on council’s website and intranet sites.
7. Print posters and brochures and display in all council offices and buildings.
8. Council staff utilise the Email Signature to feature in all outgoing emails.
9. Host information sessions for staff and various groups in your community.
10. Hold a ‘Blue Lamington Drive’ morning or afternoon tea as a forum to discuss asbestos awareness with staff and/or guests from external groups.
11. Utilise the radio and television ads on your website and use the radio ads as your ‘on hold’ message on phone systems
12. Promote Asbestos Awareness on council’s Facebook Page and on Twitter.
13. Promote Asbestos Awareness to all relevant groups in your community to engage their support for the campaign including; TAFE, Trade schools, all trades and trades associations relevant to building and renovating and local hardware stores.
14. Promote the Asbestos Awareness message on all council materials distributed to the community including rate notices and newsletters. This can be done simply by including the Asbestos Awareness logo.
15. Utilise pull-up-banner artwork to produce a permanent asbestos awareness display that can feature in council’s foyer and at asbestos awareness events.

## BETTY - THE ADRI HOUSE

### 'BETTY – THE ADRI HOUSE' IN THE COMMUNITY

In 2012, we launched 'Betty the ADRI House', a world-first experiential marketing tool designed for transportation to communities demonstrating asbestos locations in homes.

Since being launched, Betty has been a feature at the Sydney Royal Easter Show and the Sydney Home Show. She has also toured through 18 towns and communities in Northern NSW holding media calls and gaining substantial media coverage. Betty also toured Central Western NSW holding media calls and connecting to communities. Overall, Betty has travelled more than 16,000 kilometres to spread her important message about asbestos in and around homes and how to safely manage it.

The success of Betty in promoting asbestos awareness can be measured effectively through monitoring the traffic to [asbestosawareness.com.au](http://asbestosawareness.com.au). Whenever Betty is on the road, daily website traffic increases by as much as 45%. To see Betty engaging with communities, visit Betty's recently launched Facebook page: [Betty the ADRI House – Asbestos Awareness](https://www.facebook.com/BettytheADRIHouse).

### BETTY TOURS DURING ASBESTOS AWARENESS MONTH

Betty – The ADRI House will once again be on the road during Asbestos Awareness Month holding media call events and visiting as many communities as possible. In 2014, for the first time Betty will be traveling interstate to feature in Victoria and Melbourne.

### NSW & VICTORIAN COUNCILS

Councils in the Sydney Metropolitan area and on the NSW South Coast, Riverina and in the Melbourne Metropolitan area, the Victorian East Coast and inland regions may request Betty to visit your community throughout Asbestos Awareness Month. If your council would like to invited Betty during Asbestos Awareness Month please contact us at [asbestosawareness@insightcommunications.net.au](mailto:asbestosawareness@insightcommunications.net.au) at your earliest convenience. Please note that due to her size and popularity there are specific requirements to host Betty. Should your council be planning on launching a policy surrounding Asbestos Management during November, Betty provides a perfect photo op for media to attend.

*The Model Asbestos House known as "Betty" clearly identifies where asbestos containing materials may be found in dwellings and shows that it is not just found in a building's walls or eaves.*

*"Betty" is an excellent educative tool that will raise the awareness of where asbestos can be found in people's homes and what can be done to minimise the risks of exposure to this deadly material.*

*"Betty" visited Holroyd last year during Awareness Week and was a great success as the centre piece in attracting the community's attention by displaying the hidden dangers that lurk within a house containing asbestos.*

**Michael Rogers, Coordinator Strategic Planning**  
Holroyd City Council





## HOW TO HOST A BLUE LAMINGTON DRIVE



A vital part of raising awareness of asbestos among communities is creating a forum for discussion. We're inviting all Australians to hold a Blue Lamington Drive during Asbestos Awareness Month (1-30 November). The Blue Lamington's bearing a colour similar to natural asbestos fibres - are intended to raise awareness of the dangers of asbestos and to generate vital funds for the Asbestos Diseases Research Institute (ADRI) and support groups across Australia.



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 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 gold coin donations, will raise vital funds to support essential research into asbestos-related diseases including mesothelioma, an incurable cancer that can develop as a direct result of exposure to asbestos fibres.

### COUNCIL PARTICIPATION IN THE NATIONAL BLUE LAMINGTON DRIVE

Councils Australia-wide are invited to host a Blue Lamington morning or afternoon tea as part of the Asbestos Awareness Campaign's national Blue Lamington Drive. By holding a morning or afternoon tea councils will create conversation among various groups to promote education about asbestos products in and around homes and how best to manage them.

### EDUCATE COUNCIL STAFF

Hosting a Blue Lamington morning or afternoon tea for staff will help educate employees about the dangers of asbestos when renovating or maintaining their homes and inform them of council's activities and policies regarding asbestos management in their communities.



### EDUCATE RELEVANT MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY

Councils can host a Blue Lamington morning or afternoon tea for members of the community who are linked to the health and building or home renovation industry including local hardware suppliers, builders, plumbers, electricians, kitchen and bathroom suppliers, architects, conveyancers and solicitors, real estate agents, gardeners and landscapers, and healthcare workers – all those in Council's community who need to know about the dangers of disturbing asbestos and can pass on the vital message of asbestos awareness to others.

### REGISTER TO HOST A BLUE LAMINGTON DRIVE TODAY

Participants can register at [www.bluelamington.com](http://www.bluelamington.com) to download all the information and resources needed including; invitations, recipes, posters and flyers and a media release template that you can add the event details to and invite community members. You can follow Blue Lamington on Facebook [www.facebook.com/bluelamington](http://www.facebook.com/bluelamington).



## CAMPAIGN KEY MESSAGES

### PRIMARY MESSAGE – VISIT ASBESTOS.AWARENESS.COM.AU

**Don't Play Renovation Roulette!**

**Get to kNOw Asbestos this NOvember! Visit [asbestosawareness.com.au](http://asbestosawareness.com.au) - It's not worth the risk!**

**NOvember Is National Asbestos Awareness Month 2014**

**Asbestos Awareness Day is Friday 28 NOVember**

NOvember is national Asbestos Awareness Month. In the lead-up to Asbestos Awareness Day (Friday 28 NOVember) all Australians especially homeowners, renovators tradies and handymen need to Get to kNOw Asbestos this NOVember by visiting [asbestosawareness.com.au](http://asbestosawareness.com.au) and take the 20 Point Asbestos Safety Check to learn how to protect themselves and families from exposure to dangerous asbestos fibres.

### CAMPAIGN OBJECTIVES

The key messages below are designed to drive traffic to [asbestosawareness.com.au](http://asbestosawareness.com.au) to effectively educate the community about where asbestos can be found in and around the home and how best to manage it.

We want all Australians to:

- ⊙ Stop being complacent about how they work with asbestos.
- ⊙ Visit [asbestosawareness.com.au](http://asbestosawareness.com.au) and take the 20 Point Asbestos Safety Check to learn how to protect themselves and families from exposure to dangerous asbestos fibres.
- ⊙ Stop playing 'Renovation Roulette' and start thinking smart and safe by visiting [asbestosawareness.com.au](http://asbestosawareness.com.au) because it's not worth the risk!
- ⊙ Host a Blue Lamington Drive to help raise awareness of asbestos dangers: [www.bluelamington.com](http://www.bluelamington.com)

### KEY MESSAGES

#### GET TO KNOW ASBESTOS – THE 20 POINT ASBESTOS SAFETY CHECK

1. At least 1 in 3 Australian homes contains asbestos including brick, weatherboard, fibro and clad homes.
2. Asbestos was widely used in building materials before 1987 so if your home was built or renovated before 1987 it most likely contains asbestos.
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 you will need to take including wearing specific protective clothing, the correct mask or breathing apparatus and ensure you minimise dust and dispose of it 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. Are you playing renovation roulette? Get to kNOw Asbestos this NOvember! Visit [asbestosawareness.com.au](http://asbestosawareness.com.au) Because it's not worth the risk!

### **GET TO kNOW WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO MANAGE ASBESTOS SAFELY IN AND AROUND HOMES!**

- ⊙ There is no safe level of exposure to asbestos fibres!
- ⊙ If you don't kNOw the hazards of working with asbestos materials including fibro and don't observe safety precautions when removing or working with asbestos, you risk exposing yourself and families to long-term health risks.
- ⊙ If asbestos is disturbed it can release dangerous fine particles of dust containing asbestos fibres.
- ⊙ Breathing in dust containing asbestos fibres can cause asbestosis, lung cancer and mesothelioma
- ⊙ Mesothelioma is an incurable cancer which most often occurs in the lining of the lung.
- ⊙ The average time between first exposure and developing mesothelioma is about 40 years.
- ⊙ The average survival time after diagnosis of malignant mesothelioma is 10-12 months.
- ⊙ The rates of malignant mesothelioma are expected to rise in the next 8-10 years.
- ⊙ The risk of contracting asbestos-related diseases increases with the number of fibres inhaled and the length of time (years) that asbestos fibres were inhaled.
- ⊙ The risk of lung cancer from inhaling asbestos fibres is greatly increased for smokers.
- ⊙ Symptoms of asbestos-related diseases don't usually appear until about 20 to 50 years after the first exposure to asbestos fibres.
- ⊙ Fact sheets about asbestos and health risks can be found at [www.asbestosawareness.com.au](http://www.asbestosawareness.com.au)

## ASBESTOS IN & AROUND THE HOME

Asbestos fibres were used widely in building materials before the mid-1980s. If your house was built or renovated before the mid-1980s, it is likely to contain asbestos cement building materials.

You may be surprised at the various types of products that were made from bonded asbestos cement included fibro sheeting (flat and corrugated), water drainage and flue pipes, roofing shingles and guttering – even the backing of vinyl sheet floor coverings.

In NSW, the use of asbestos was discontinued in all fibro sheets and products by the mid-1980s. After this, asbestos continued to be used principally in friction products, for brake and clutch linings. The manufacture and use of asbestos products was banned nationally in Australia from 31 December 2003.

### WHERE MIGHT ASBESTOS BE FOUND IN THE HOME?

If a home was built or renovated before 1987, products made from bonded asbestos cement that may have been used in the home include:

- ⊙ Fibro sheeting (flat and corrugated) in walls and ceilings
- ⊙ Water drainage and flue pipes
- ⊙ Roofing shingles and guttering
- ⊙ The backing of floor coverings

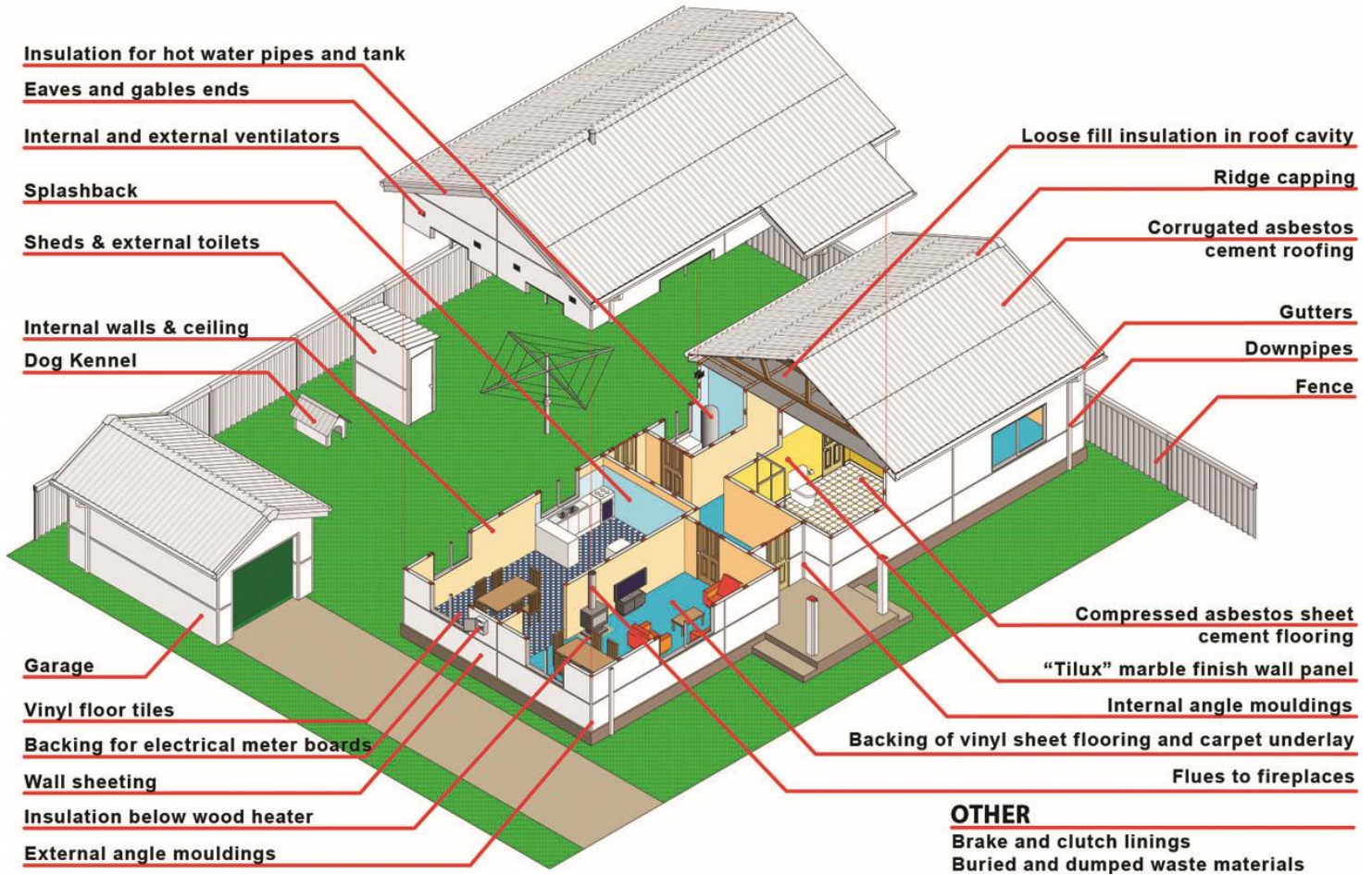
**IMPORTANT:** If fire, hail, or water blasting damages bonded asbestos, it may become friable asbestos material and must be managed and removed by a licenced friable asbestos removalist.

### TYPICAL HOUSEHOLD LOCATIONS

Inside House	Outside House
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⊙ Backing of vinyl sheet floor covering</li> <li>⊙ Carpet underlay</li> <li>⊙ Cement flooring</li> <li>⊙ Compressed asbestos sheet</li> <li>⊙ Flues to fireplaces</li> <li>⊙ Insulation below wood heater</li> <li>⊙ Internal and external ventilators</li> <li>⊙ Internal angle mouldings</li> <li>⊙ Internal walls &amp; ceiling</li> <li>⊙ Kitchen splashback</li> <li>⊙ Loose fill insulation in roof cavity</li> <li>⊙ "Tilux" marble finish wall panel</li> <li>⊙ Vinyl floor tiles</li> <li>⊙ Wall sheeting – internal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⊙ Backing for electrical meter boards</li> <li>⊙ Dog kennels</li> <li>⊙ Downpipes</li> <li>⊙ Eaves and gables ends</li> <li>⊙ External angle mouldings</li> <li>⊙ Fence</li> <li>⊙ Garage</li> <li>⊙ Gutters</li> <li>⊙ Insulation for hot water pipes and tank</li> <li>⊙ Internal and external ventilators</li> <li>⊙ Ridge capping</li> <li>⊙ Sheds &amp; external toilets</li> <li>⊙ Wall sheeting – external</li> </ul>

## ASBESTOS IN HOMES DIAGRAM

### Where Asbestos May Be Found In A Typical Home



### TYPES OF HOMES WHERE ASBESTOS MIGHT BE FOUND



*"Whether a home is constructed of brick, weatherboard, fibro or is clad, asbestos can be present in ANY home built or renovated before 1987"*

## ASBESTOS EDUCATION COMMITTEE & ASBESTOS AWARENESS MONTH (NOVEMBER)

The Asbestos Awareness Month campaign is overseen by WorkCover, the ACTU and James Hardie and supported by the Asbestos Diseases Research Institute. Funding for this campaign was provided by James Hardie Industries SE and the Heads of Asbestos Coordination Authorities.

In 2011, the Asbestos Education Committee (AEC) in partnership with the Asbestos Diseases Research Institute (ADRI) conducted a NSW based campaign to educate homeowners about the dangers of asbestos when renovating or maintaining homes. Following the success of the NSW Asbestos Awareness Campaign, the AEC and ADRI launched a national campaign, Asbestos Awareness Week 2012. In 2013, the AEC and ADRI launched national Asbestos Awareness Month. In 2014 the aim is to grow the campaign to reach as many Australians as possible including homeowners, renovators, tradesmen and handymen.

## ASBESTOS DISEASES RESEARCH INSTITUTE

As a response to the increasing incidence of malignant mesothelioma in Australia, the Asbestos Diseases Research Institute (ADRI), located in the Bernie Banton Centre, Concord NSW was opened by the then Prime Minister, the Hon. Kevin Rudd in January 2009. ADRI was established by the Asbestos Diseases Research Foundation (a charitable not-for-profit organisation) dedicated to preventing asbestos related diseases. The ADRI's primary objectives are to:

Improve the diagnosis and treatment of asbestos-related disease and at the same time to contribute to more effective measures to prevent exposure to asbestos. With the establishment of the ADRI, as the first stand-alone research institute dedicated to tackling this silent and still increasing epidemic, Australia has taken a vital step forward in the international fight against asbestos-related diseases.



## ASBESTOS-RELATED DISEASES

### ASBESTOS-RELATED DISEASE STATISTICS

Malignant mesothelioma is the most common of the asbestos-related diseases monitored in Australia. This is because there is a strong causal association between asbestos exposure and malignant mesothelioma. A total of 11,667 people were newly diagnosed with malignant mesothelioma in Australia between 1982 and 2009, with men making up 85% of all cases. Since 2003, approximately 600 cases of newly diagnosed malignant mesothelioma cases have been reported each year.

### MESOTHELIOMA

Mesothelioma is a cancer arising from the lining (mesothelium) of the thoracic and abdominal cavities. The disease is usually advanced before symptoms appear, making an early diagnosis and effective treatment very difficult. The average survival time after diagnosis is only 10-11 months. A small exposure to asbestos can be enough to trigger the cancer, however a relatively small percentage of people exposed to asbestos develop mesothelioma. There usually is a lag of 30-40 years after the first asbestos exposure before the disease is diagnosed.

### PLEURAL DISEASE

Inflammation of the outer lining of the lung, the pleura (where asbestos fibres are deposited). The pleura stiffens and thickens widely (diffuse thickening) or in patches (plaques), and can fill with fluid.

### ASBESTOSIS

This is scarring of the lungs by inhalation of large quantities of asbestos fibres: the lung becomes inflamed and scarred (stiff) making breathing progressively difficult. Symptoms include tightness in the chest, dry cough, and in the later stages, a bluish tinge to the skin caused by lack of oxygen. Asbestosis is usually seen in former asbestos miners, asbestos manufacturing workers and insulation workers, and usually takes a decade or more to develop.

### LUNG CANCER

Exposure to asbestos fibres greatly increases a person's risk of developing lung cancer, particularly if they are also a smoker.

### REFERENCES

Park EK, Hyland R, Yates D, Thomas PS, Johnson A. Asbestos exposure during home renovation in New South Wales. Medical Journal Australasia, September 2013; 199 (6): 410-413. <https://www.mja.com.au/journal/2013/199/6/asbestos-exposure-during-home-renovation-new-south-wales>

Olsen NJ, Franklin PJ, Reid A, de Klerk NH, Threlfall TJ, Shilkin K, Musk B, 5-Sept-2011, "Increasing incidence of malignant mesothelioma after exposure to asbestos during home maintenance and renovation", Medical Journal of Australia, 195 (5): 271-274.  
[www.mja.com.au/journal/2011/195/5/increasing-incidence-malignant-mesothelioma-after-exposure-asbestos-during-home](http://www.mja.com.au/journal/2011/195/5/increasing-incidence-malignant-mesothelioma-after-exposure-asbestos-during-home)

Park EK, Hyland R, Yates D, Thomas PS, Johnson A. Prevalence of self-reported asbestos exposure during home renovation in NSW residents. Respiriology Supplement 1, Poster 143. March 2010.  
[www.mja.com.au/journal/2013/199/6/asbestos-exposure-during-home-renovation-new-south-wales](http://www.mja.com.au/journal/2013/199/6/asbestos-exposure-during-home-renovation-new-south-wales)

Australian Mesothelioma Registry Reports 2012, 2013 & 2014 [www.mesothelioma-australia.com/publications](http://www.mesothelioma-australia.com/publications)

# WHAT ARE THE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS WHEN WORKING WITH ASBESTOS IN ALL STATES AND TERRITORIES?

## GET TO KNOW THE 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, renovators, tradesmen and handymen can Get to kNOw asbestos this NOvember by visiting [asbestosawareness.com.au](http://asbestosawareness.com.au) for information on asbestos management that are relevant to their home state.

## FOR DETAILS ABOUT THE REGULATIONS IN YOUR STATE VISIT:

### NATIONAL

- ⊙ Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency - <https://asbestossafety.gov.au/>

### AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

- ⊙ Asbestos ACT [www.asbestos.act.gov.au](http://www.asbestos.act.gov.au)
- ⊙ ACT Asbestos Taskforce [www.act.gov.au/asbestos-response-taskforce](http://www.act.gov.au/asbestos-response-taskforce)

### NEW SOUTH WALES

- ⊙ Asbestos Management & Removal in the Home  
[www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/formspublications/publications/Pages/WC00315\\_FibroandAsbestosforrenovatorsandhomeowne.aspx](http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/formspublications/publications/Pages/WC00315_FibroandAsbestosforrenovatorsandhomeowne.aspx)
- ⊙ Asbestos Disposal [www.epa.nsw.gov.au/waste/asbestos/index.htm](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/waste/asbestos/index.htm)
- ⊙ (no longer available)
- ⊙ WorkCover NSW Asbestos and Demolition Licence Holder Search Facility  
[www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/online-searches/Pages/adl-search.aspx](http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/online-searches/Pages/adl-search.aspx)
- ⊙ Asbestos - A guide for householders and the general public.  
[www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ohp-enhealth-asbestos-may2012.htm](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ohp-enhealth-asbestos-may2012.htm)

### NORTHERN TERRITORY

- ⊙ Asbestos Management [www.health.nt.gov.au/Environmental\\_Health/Asbestos\\_Management](http://www.health.nt.gov.au/Environmental_Health/Asbestos_Management)

### QUEENSLAND

- ⊙ Asbestos Queensland [www.deir.qld.gov.au/asbestos/](http://www.deir.qld.gov.au/asbestos/)

### SOUTH AUSTRALIA

- ⊙ Asbestos Occupational Health and Safety [www.safework.sa.gov.au](http://www.safework.sa.gov.au)

### TASMANIA

- ⊙ Asbestos Tasmania [www.asbestos.tas.gov.au/](http://www.asbestos.tas.gov.au/)

### VICTORIA

- ⊙ Asbestos Management & Removal in the Home [www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/forms-and-publications/forms-and-publications/management-and-disposal-of-asbestos](http://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/forms-and-publications/forms-and-publications/management-and-disposal-of-asbestos)
- ⊙ Asbestos Disposal [www.epa.vic.gov.au/your-environment/waste/asbestos](http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/your-environment/waste/asbestos)
- ⊙ Asbestos Occupational Health and Safety  
[www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/safety-and-prevention/health-and-safety-topics/asbestos](http://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/safety-and-prevention/health-and-safety-topics/asbestos)

### WESTERN AUSTRALIA

- ⊙ Asbestos in the Home [www.public.health.wa.gov.au/3/1143/2/asbestos\\_in\\_the\\_home.pm](http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au/3/1143/2/asbestos_in_the_home.pm)
- ⊙ Asbestos in the Workplace <http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/asbestos-information-asbestos-workplace>