

This factsheet outlines how Transport for NSW manages asbestos waste identified in NSW.

About asbestos

Asbestos is a natural mineral that was used in many building products before it was banned in Australia.

Asbestos fibres can pose a risk to health if they are airborne, as inhalation is the main way that asbestos enters the body.

Asbestos is common in homes and structures built before 1990 and was commonly used in:

- cement sheeting (fibro)
- drainage and flue pipes
- roofing, guttering and flexible building boards (e.g., Villaboard, Hardiflex, etc.)
- brakes, clutches, and gaskets.

Different forms of asbestos have different risk levels:

- **bonded (non-friable) asbestos:** if asbestos is mixed with cement or other hard-bonding materials, and in good condition, it's likely to be low-risk.
- **friable asbestos:** can be crumbled, pulverised or reduced to a powder by hand pressure. If asbestos fibres then become airborne and breathed in, they can be a health risk. This is the most common way asbestos enters the body. The more fibres that are breathed in, the higher the risk.

How does Transport identify asbestos?

Before the start of construction work, Transport will carry out asbestos investigations to determine if there is any asbestos present. This includes sending material samples to a licensed asbestos lab for analysis. If asbestos has been identified, an asbestos register is then prepared in accordance with NSW legislative and regulatory requirements.

How does Transport manage asbestos?

When asbestos is identified and to comply with health and safety requirements, Transport works with appropriately qualified asbestos professionals such as licensed asbestos removalists and Licensed Asbestos Assessors (LAA) to safely manage or remove asbestos from sites and dispose of it to a licensed waste facility.

If, during construction, Transport encounter asbestos not previously identified, work is immediately stopped so the material can be further assessed and safely removed.

What safety measures are used?

To comply with legal requirements, reduce impacts and keep our workers safe, Transport use the following safety measures:

- installing warning signs, barriers and temporary fencing around areas containing asbestos
- monitoring air quality during the removal of non-bonded asbestos
- ensuring a licensed specialist is on site to monitor and control the asbestos removal
- using water sprays to suppress dust (where required)
- ensuring any material containing asbestos is encapsulated on site or loaded, transported, and disposed of at licensed facilities.

How does Transport dispose of asbestos?

Transport dispose of asbestos waste at a licensed asbestos waste disposal site following waste classification guidelines. This will usually occur:

- at the end of the removal job, providing the asbestos waste is secured on site at the end of each day to prevent unauthorised access.
- when the waste containers are full at the end of each day and the asbestos waste cannot be secured at the removal site.

Quick links to important information

Work involving the handling, removal and disposal of asbestos must adhere to the legislation and Codes of Practice as stated in:

- [Work Health and Safety Act 2011](#)
- [Work Health and Safety Regulation 2017](#)
- [Code of Practice How to manage and control asbestos in the workplace 2022](#)
- [Code of Practice How to safely remove asbestos 2022](#)

Disposal of asbestos waste is governed under the [Protection of the Environment Operations \(POEO\) Act 1997](#) which is regulated by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

You can also visit the [Asbestos in NSW webpage](#) and [SafeWork NSW asbestos resources](#).