

CONTACT INFORMATION

West Lancashire District Council
Housing & Property Maintenance Services



West Lancashire
District Council

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Click: www.westlancsdc.gov.uk

We can provide **Repairs & Asbestos - A Guide for Home Owners** and other Council publications on audiotape, CD, large print, braille and in other languages as appropriate on request.

Visit our website www.westlancsdc.gov.uk/access

Or telephone: 01695 577177

Where can I go for more information?

SOME USEFUL WEBSITES:



West Lancashire
District Council

www.westlancsdc.gov.uk



www.hse.gov.uk/website

The Health & Safety Executive

Asbestos Information Centre Ltd

www.aic.org.uk

Asbestos Information Centre



www.nasca.org.uk

National Society for Clean Air

Repairs & Asbestos

A GUIDE FOR HOME OWNERS

This leaflet helps explain some of the most frequent questions asked about Asbestos in the home.

You should read this leaflet carefully and keep it in case you need to refer to it in the future.



West Lancashire
District Council

Repairs & Asbestos A GUIDE FOR HOME OWNERS

This leaflet tells you more about asbestos, including what asbestos is and where it could be found in your home. It will also help you to make sure that you and your family are not put at risk if there is asbestos.

What is asbestos?

Asbestos is the general name given to natural minerals, which are found all over the world. There are 3 types of asbestos: blue asbestos (crocidolite), brown asbestos (amosite) and white asbestos (chrysotile).

Asbestos is very strong, flexible, stable and heat resistant. It was used widely in house building between the 1930s and the mid-1980s but mostly in the 60s and 70s. If your home was built or improved during this time, there is a good chance that it will contain some Asbestos Containing Materials (ACMs) it is estimated that 75% to 85% of the county's houses built before 2000 contain asbestos materials. Asbestos can occasionally be found in its pure form but this is usually in commercial or industrial situations. In homes it is usually found mixed with other materials such as cement to give the building materials strength and heat resistance.

Where could I find asbestos?

This is a list of some of the more usual uses of Asbestos Containing Materials around the home:

- Airbricks
- Bath panels
- Boilers and pipework
- Cold water tanks
- Corrugated cement sheeting – normally on sheds/garages
- Decorative coatings e.g. artexing
- Fire surrounds
- Flooring materials – vinyl type floor tiles; paper backing
- Flue pipes
- Rainwater guttering and downpipes
- Roof and exterior walls
- Waste pipes
- Sprayed coating on steel framed buildings
- Wall boarding – internal partitions, airing cupboard linings, duct and pipe covers
- Pipe lagging and duct linings

Are there any health risks?

Any asbestos containing material that is undamaged will not present a health risk but if asbestos materials are damaged, drilled, sawn, scrubbed or sanded, there can be a risk.

When asbestos containing materials get damaged, asbestos fibres can be released into the air. These fibres can sometimes get into the lungs where they may stay for a long time. This may cause cancer and thickening of the lungs. The level of risk depends on how easily the material releases fibres, the type of asbestos contained within the material and the time you have been working in such areas and the amount of damage to the material.

What do I need to do?

If you work on asbestos containing materials without training, expertise and personal protection you can put yourself and your family at risk.

If you want to carry out any improvements to your home that could disturb any asbestos containing material, or if you are unsure whether the work you are planning would disturb any asbestos containing material, you should seek advice before you begin any work. A list of websites is provided overleaf that provide useful information. Advice can also be sought from qualified asbestos surveyors and licensed asbestos contractors.

What do I do if I think I have damaged asbestos in my home?

If you think there is damaged asbestos in your home **DO NOT** try to deal with it yourself – seek advice!

