



**Before you
start DIY or
refurbishments in
your home **THINK!****

Asbestos is a 'Hidden Killer'



Asbestos Awareness Project



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*Asbestos is a
'Hidden Killer'*

Where can asbestos be found?

Asbestos was commonly used between the 1930s - 1980s and sadly is still present today. Asbestos is estimated to be present in 90% of all public sector housing' (CSE 2005) as well as domestic properties. Asbestos-cement materials are said to exist in 10 million public UK buildings (Gravelsons et al 2004). HSE estimates that around 500,000 workplace buildings contain asbestos and many more domestic premises contain it.


Knowing where asbestos could be contained in your home may save lives

When carrying out DIY work do not sand, drill, cut or break materials containing asbestos.

Building materials and components likely to contain asbestos are:-

- Cold water tanks
- Flat and corrugated sheeting for cladding roofs and walls (including garages and sheds)
- Ceiling tiles and fireproofing panels on heating cupboards, fire doors and below windows
- Gutters, rain water pipes and flue pipes
- Textured coatings to walls and ceilings (Artex)
- Vinyl floor tiles, ropes and felts
- Sprayed asbestos and asbestos loose packing – generally used as fire breaks in ceiling voids



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- Moulded or preformed lagging – generally used in thermal insulation of pipes
 - Sprayed asbestos – generally used as insulation on the underside of roofs and for protection around beams, columns and the underside of floors.

Why be aware of asbestos?

It has the potential to cause disease including asbestos related cancer - Mesothelioma.

What is Mesothelioma?

Mesothelioma is also known as 'diffuse' or 'malignant' mesothelioma. Mesothelioma is a form of cancer that affects the mesothelium, which is a thin membrane that lines the inner surface of the chest wall where it is known as the pleura, and abdomen, where it is known as the peritoneum. It also surrounds the organs found within these cavities, for example the heart, lung and intestines. (Mesothelioma UK website).

It is far more common to have mesothelioma in the chest than in the abdomen, there is approximately 1 case of peritoneal mesothelioma to every 12 cases of pleural mesothelioma. (Mesothelioma UK website) Even low levels of exposure can prove fatal. Currently there is no cure for Mesothelioma.

In 2010 there were 2347 deaths in the UK due to Mesothelioma with the expected peak in 2016. (HSE).

What to do if you suspect asbestos in your home

Generally, asbestos is only a risk if you disturb or damage it and cause fibres to be released into the air. If asbestos-containing materials are in good condition and in a position where they are not going to be disturbed or damaged then it may be safer to leave

them where they are and ensure that any risks are properly managed. It is possible to further protect undamaged asbestos material in the home rather than remove it (which disturbs it) but competent advice would be needed. Professional advice should be sought.

If you live in Social Housing, please contact your Council, or Housing Association or Landlord (they all have a Duty to Manage the Asbestos in their properties that they rent to the public). In social housing - there should be an asbestos register per home in each local authority or housing stock association which identifies where the asbestos is in each property. A Council can advise regarding disposal; however for private property owners please seek professional advice, ie: a survey.

For more information

To find a licensed contractor please see the HSE list of licensed contractors:

<http://webcommunities.hse.gov.uk/connect.ti/asbestos.licensing/view?objectId=7076>

There are lots of resources. Please take a look at the 'The Hidden Killer' web-pages for more advice:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/hiddenkiller/index.htm>

Asbestos Essentials tasksheets are a useful tool for tradesmen and show how to do a range of non-licensed tasks safely:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/hsg210.htm>

The only way of being certain something contains asbestos is to have it sampled.

About DAST

Our Support

Derbyshire Asbestos Support Team is a registered charity which helps anyone diagnosed with asbestos related diseases throughout the East Midlands. Our support is also extended to family members or carers of victims of asbestos related diseases. Our holistic service includes help with benefits advice, Government compensation and advice about making a civil claim through membership or former membership of a trade union or through our expert panel of Solicitors.

We also bring families together by organising meetings, conferences and support events as well as providing newsletters to share information and support. We campaign to ensure that victims of asbestos related disease receive justice. We are a founder member of the Asbestos Victims Support Groups' Forum (UK) which comes together to fight for justice and best practice for victims of asbestos related diseases.

Action Mesothelioma Day

Every year we organise an event for 'Action Mesothelioma Day' a special day when we remember all those who have died or have been made ill by Mesothelioma. It is also a positive day which brings families together for a common cause whether that be fighting for justice, looking to the future for better diagnosis and treatment of Mesothelioma or campaigning for a World-Wide Ban!

Raising Awareness

We also hope to raise awareness about the dangers of exposure to asbestos with events similar to this, which may go some way to preventing future ill-health.



In February 2012 we projected 125 names of victims of Mesothelioma in Derby and the East Midlands onto the iconic Derby Cathedral.

A 1 metre version of the house with interactive projection is also being made which can be easily transported to conferences, meetings or other events. The large scale projection could also be transported to cities throughout the East Midlands and the UK.



This project was produced in association with QUAD, Derby's centre for art and film. www.derbyquad.co.uk



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Follow us on [twitter@DAST24](https://twitter.com/DAST24) or facebook group DAST (Derbyshire Asbestos Support Team) or follow us on pinterest <http://pinterest.com/DerbyshireAST/>

Thank You

Thank you to Oli Melia and the Technical Team at Derby Quad, who made our vision to raise awareness in this innovative way a reality.

The programme and booklet contains public sector information published by the Health and Safety Executive and licensed under the Open Government Licence v1.0. We would also like to thank the Independent Asbestos Training Providers (IATP), UCATT and Mesothelioma UK for the information and advice in putting the projection together.

Disclaimer: The information contained on this interactive programme and this booklet is for general information purposes only. The information is provided by DAST and we have made every effort to ensure that it is accurate. However, we make no representations or warranties of any kind, express or implied, about the completeness, accuracy, reliability, of the information contained in the programme. Please seek professional advice if you suspect asbestos.

Thank you to all our sponsors



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In memory of Trevor Oldham
Yvette and Nick xx