

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) FOR WORKING WITH < 10M² OF BONDED ASBESTOS

ASBESTOS SAFE WORK FACT SHEET

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Asbestos is a hazardous substance.

When you are carrying out work that may involve disturbing and/or removing materials that contain asbestos, it's important to wear protective equipment that prevents you from inhaling asbestos fibres. It's also important that you dispose of the equipment correctly. Where possible, you should use disposable equipment.

If you are not qualified or appropriately licensed to carry out asbestos work, engage someone who is.

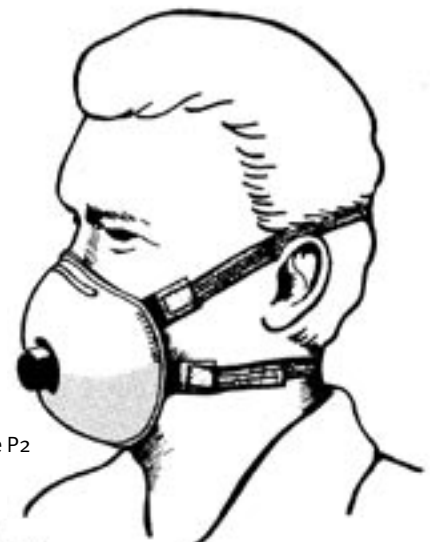
Follow the correct safety procedures and protect yourself from asbestos related disease.

BREATHING EQUIPMENT

- As a minimum you should wear an SAA approved P2 face respirator, with two straps.
- Either a disposable or non-disposable half-face dust filter respirator is appropriate for work with asbestos cement sheeting (e.g. low speed drilling and cutting) or removal of bonded asbestos cement products.
- Do not reuse a disposable respirator or filters. They must be disposed of as asbestos waste.
- Filters must be replaced if using non-disposable respirators. The respirator must also be cleaned using damp cloths. Warning: do not reuse or resoak cloths and dispose of as asbestos waste.
- Persons with beards or other facial hair or stubble should be clean shaven to achieve facial seal required for respirators.
- Remember the respirator should be the first thing to go on and the last thing to come off.

COVERALLS

- Use disposable coveralls with fitted hoods and cuffs so that personal clothing does not become contaminated.
- Don't wear personal clothing made from wool or other materials that attract fibrous dusts when you're working with asbestos.
- Fitted hoods should always be worn over the straps of respirators, and loose cuffs should be sealed with tape.
- Don't reuse disposable coveralls. Wrap disposable coveralls in a double layer of plastic and dispose as asbestos waste once the task is completed.



Disposable P2



Non-disposable P2

Source: NOHSC Code of Practice for Safe Removal of Asbestos, 2005



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FOOTWEAR

- Gum boots or laceless steel-capped rubber-soled work boots with disposable boot covers are preferred, as asbestos dust can gather in the laces and eyelets. Alternatively, use old footwear and dispose of as asbestos waste when the job is completed.
- Always decontaminate safety footwear before you leave the asbestos work area for any reason, or seal footwear in double bags for use only on the next asbestos maintenance task.
- Disposable boot covers must be disposed of as asbestos waste.

PERSONAL DECONTAMINATION CHECKLIST

Never leave the asbestos work area until decontamination is complete. Always leave respirator on during decontamination process.

- Remove any visible asbestos dust/residue from protective clothing using an asbestos vacuum cleaner or wiping down with damp cloths. Warning: do not reuse or resoak damp cloths.
- Place cloths into disposal bag (200-micron (μm) thick plastic bags).
- Take disposable coveralls off and place into disposal bags (while still using respirator).
- Use damp cloths to wipe down footwear and place cloths into disposal bag.
- Seal all plastic bags with duct tape and place each into a second plastic bag.
- Seal this second plastic bag and label/mark as "Asbestos waste".
- Use damp rags to wipe external surfaces of the disposal bags to remove any dust before its removed from the work area.
- Place damp cloths into disposable bags, remove your personal protective equipment and double bag, seal with duct tape and mark as "Asbestos Waste".
- Dispose of respirator in double bag, seal with duct tape and mark as "Asbestos Waste".
- Dispose of asbestos waste at the appropriate waste facility (Mugga Lane or Mitchell).

For more information, see the asbestos website (www.asbestos.act.gov.au) or contact 13 22 81.

DRILLING OF ASBESTOS CEMENT SHEETING

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Asbestos is a hazardous substance.

Where possible, plan your work to avoid disturbing the material. Alternatively arrange for the material to be removed safely by a qualified person.

Drilling of material containing asbestos can release asbestos fibres into the air. Follow the correct safety procedures and protect yourself from asbestos related disease.

EQUIPMENT

- Non-powered hand drill is preferred or low-speed battery-powered drill or drilling equipment fitted with a local exhaust ventilation (LEV) dust control hood.
- Disposable cleaning rags.
- Bucket of water and/or a misting spray bottle.
- Duct tape.
- Sealant, e.g. PVA paint.
- Thickened substance (e.g. wallpaper paste, shaving cream or hair gel).
- 200 micron (μm) thick plastic bags.
- 200 μm plastic sheeting as drop sheets.
- Warning signs and/or barrier tape.
- Industrial asbestos vacuum cleaner with HEPA filter.
- A sturdy paper, foam or thin metal cup, or similar (for work on overhead surfaces only).
- PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT – see separate fact sheet.

PREPARE THE WORK AREA

- If the work is to be carried out at a height, take appropriate precautions to prevent risk of falls.
- Avoid working in windy environments.
- Restrict entry to the asbestos work areas (e.g. close door and/or use warning signs and/or barrier tape at all entry points).
- Use plastic sheeting secured with duct tape to cover any surface of the work area.
- If a LEV dust control hood cannot be attached and other dust control methods, such as pastes and gels are unsuitable, then a second person must operate an asbestos vacuum cleaner as close as possible to the source of released asbestos fibres while the drill is being used.

WARNING: Do not reuse or resoak used rags in the bucket of water.



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DRILLING VERTICAL SURFACES	DRILLING OVERHEAD HORIZONTAL SURFACES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tape the point to be drilled and the exit point. • Cover the drill entry and exit points (if accessible) on the asbestos sheet with a generous amount of thickened substance. • Drill through the paste. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark point to be drilled. • Drill a hole through the bottom of a plastic/paper cup. • Fill or line the inside of the cup with thickened substance. • Put the drill bit through the hole in the cup and make sure the drill bit extends beyond the lip of the cup. • Align the drill bit with the marked point. • Ensure cup is firmly held against surface to be drilled. • Drill through the surface. • Remove the drill bit from the cup, ensuring that the cup remains firmly against the surface. • Remove the cup from the surface.

CLEANING UP

- Use damp rags to clean off the paste and debris from the wall and drill bit.
- Seal the cut edges with sealant.
- Carefully roll or fold plastic sheeting from floor, so any collected dust or debris do not spill.
- If necessary, use damp rags and/or an asbestos vacuum cleaner to clean any remaining visibly contaminated sections of the work area.
- Place debris, used rags, plastic sheeting and other waste in disposal bags.
- Seal all disposal bags with duct tape and place each into a second plastic bag.
- Seal second plastic bag and label/mark as "Asbestos waste".
- Use damp cloths to wipe external surfaces of the disposal bags to remove any dust before it's removed from the work area.
- Place damp cloths into disposable bags, remove your personal protective equipment and double bag, seal with duct tape and mark as "Asbestos Waste".
- Dispose of asbestos waste at the appropriate waste facility (Mugga Lane or Mitchell).
- If a cable is to be passed through, insert a sleeve to protect the inner edge of the hole.

For more information, see the asbestos website (www.asbestos.act.gov.au) or contact 13 22 81.

This fact sheet has been adapted from the 2005 NOHSC Code of Practice for the Management and Control of Asbestos in Workplaces.



SAFE REMOVAL OF CERAMIC TILES FROM ASBESTOS CEMENT SHEETING

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Asbestos is a hazardous substance.

When you are removing ceramic tiles from areas such as bathrooms, you need to avoid disturbing the backing sheet (wall lining) as it may contain asbestos. If you're not sure whether it does contain asbestos, either get an assessment or be on the safe side and presume it does.

If the backing sheet is damaged or broken before or during the removal of the tiles, arrange for the material to be removed by a Licensed Asbestos Removalist and replace it with an alternative wall lining. This applies if tiles cannot be removed without damaging the backing sheet due to strong and deep adhesion qualities of the adhesive used.

Follow the correct safety procedures and protect yourself from asbestos related disease.

EQUIPMENT

- Thick plastic sheet, at least 0.2mm thick.
- Duct tape.
- Spray bottle filled with detergent water.
- Wide scraper.
- Wide chisel.
- Disposable cleaning rags.
- Bucket of water.
- Strong, thick (at least 0.2 mm) plastic bags for collection of debris.
- PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT – see separate fact sheet.

PREPARE THE WORK AREA

- Remove all loose items from the affected room.
- Close door and restrict entry.
- Use plastic sheeting, secured with duct tape, to cover floor surface within work area.

WARNING: Do not reuse or resoak used rags in the bucket of water.

REMOVING WALL TILES

- Use the chisel to gently tap between the top of the tile and the backing sheet to release the tile. Do not dig the chisel into the backing sheet.
- As the tile is released, spray detergent water lightly behind the tile to prevent release of fibres.

- Try to prevent the tile from falling onto the plastic.
- Place tiles in disposal bags (only fill the bag half full).

CLEANING THE RESIDUE

- Remove tile adhesive and grout residue from backing sheet to achieve a relatively flat and clean surface before laying new tiles.
- Use a damp detergent water cloth to gently wipe down the wall.
- Whilst keeping the surface being worked on damp with the detergent spray, use the scraper to gently remove all residues. Do not dig into the surface of the sheet.
- With the sheet now clean and level, wipe down with a damp detergent-water cloth.
- Place used cloths in disposal bag.



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CLEANING UP

- ☑ Remove larger scrap from ground plastic sheet and place in disposal bag.
- ☑ Carefully roll or fold plastic sheeting from floor, so any collected dust or debris do not spill.
- ☑ If necessary, use damp rags and/or an asbestos vacuum cleaner to clean any remaining visibly contaminated sections of the work area.
- ☑ Place used rags, plastic sheeting and other waste in disposal bags.
- ☑ Seal all plastic bags with duct tape and place each into a second plastic bag.
- ☑ Seal this second plastic bag and label/mark as "Asbestos waste".
- ☑ Use damp rags to wipe external surfaces of the disposal bags to remove any dust before its removed from the work area.
- ☑ Place damp rags into disposable bag, remove your personal protective equipment and double bag, seal with duct tape and mark as "Asbestos Waste".
- ☑ Dispose of asbestos waste at the appropriate waste facility (Mugga Lane or Mitchell).

For more information, see the asbestos website (www.asbestos.act.gov.au) or contact 13 22 81.



SEALING, PAINTING, COATING AND CLEANING OF ASBESTOS CEMENT SHEETING

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Asbestos is a hazardous substance.

Where possible, plan your work to avoid disturbing the material.

Painting, coating and cleaning should only be carried out on asbestos cement products that are in good condition. If the sheeting is weathered, damaged or broken, arrange for removal of the sheeting by a qualified person.

Under no circumstances should asbestos cement products be water blasted or dry sanded in preparation for painting, coating or sealing.

Follow the correct safety procedures and protect yourself from asbestos related disease.

EQUIPMENT

(In addition to any paint, paint brushes, paint rollers or airless spray gun/equipment etc)

- Sealant.
- Duct tape.
- 200-micron (μm) thick plastic bags.
- 200-micron thick (μm) plastic sheeting as drop sheets.
- Disposable cleaning rags.
- Bucket of water, or more as appropriate.
- Misting spray bottle.
- Warning signs and/or barrier tape.
- PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT – see separate fact sheet.

NOTE: Where paint is to be applied, appropriate respiratory protection to control the paint vapours/ mist should be worn.

PREPARE THE WORK AREA

- If the work is to be carried out at a height, take appropriate precautions to prevent risk of falls.
- Segregate the asbestos work area(s) to restrict entry (e.g. close door and/or use warning signs and/or barrier tape at all entry points).
- If possible, use plastic sheeting, secured with duct tape, to cover floor of the work area. This will help to contain any runoff from wet sanding methods.

WARNING: Do not reuse or resoak used rags in the bucket of water.



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PREPARE THE SURFACE

DOs	DON'Ts
Wipe dusty surfaces with a damp cloth.	High-pressure water cleaning.
Light wet sanding methods.	Dry sanding.
Paint stripper and a scraper – only on wet surface and care must be taken not to damage asbestos cement sheeting.	Dry broom or paint scraper on uncoated asbestos cement sheeting.

PAINTING AND SEALING

- When using a spray brush, never use a high-pressure spray to apply the paint.
- When using a roller, use it lightly to avoid abrasion or other damage.

CLEANING UP

- Use damp rags to clean the equipment.
- Carefully roll or fold plastic sheeting from floor, so any collected dust or debris do not spill.
- If necessary, use damp rags and/or an asbestos vacuum cleaner to clean any remaining visibly contaminated sections of work area.
- Place debris, used rags, plastic sheeting and other waste in disposal bags.
- Seal all disposal bags with duct tape and place each into a second plastic bag.
- Seal second bag and label/mark as “Asbestos waste”.
- Use damp rags to wipe external surfaces of the disposal bags to remove any dust before it’s removed from the work area.
- Place damp cloths into disposable bag, remove your personal protective equipment and double bag, seal with duct tape and mark as “Asbestos Waste”.
- Dispose of asbestos waste at the appropriate waste facility (Mugga Lane or Mitchell).

For more information, see the asbestos website (www.asbestos.act.gov.au) or contact 13 22 81.

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CUTTING HOLES IN ASBESTOS CEMENT SHEETING

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Asbestos is a hazardous substance.

Where possible, plan your work to avoid disturbing the material. Alternatively arrange for the material to be removed safely by a qualified person.

Cutting into asbestos cement sheeting can release asbestos fibres into the air. Follow the correct safety procedures and protect yourself from asbestos related disease.

If the sheeting is damaged or broken before or while you are cutting the hole, you must remove the whole sheet. If you are not qualified to conduct this work, arrange for a qualified person who does.

EQUIPMENT

- 200-micron thick (μm) plastic sheeting as drop sheets.
- Duct tape.
- Spray bottle filled with detergent water.
- Shaving foam.
- PVA paint.
- Low speed battery powered drill or non-powered hand drill or drilling equipment fitted with local exhaust ventilation (LEV) dust control hood.
- Hole saw (for round holes).
- Hand keyhole saw (for square or irregular holes).
- Disposable cleaning rags.
- 200-micron (μm) thick plastic bags.
- PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT – see separate fact sheet.

PREPARE THE WORK AREA

- If the work is to be carried out at a height, take appropriate precautions to prevent risk of falls.
- Segregate the asbestos work area(s) to restrict entry (e.g. close door and/or use warning signs and/or barrier tape at all entry points).

- Avoid working in windy environments.
- Use plastic sheeting secured with duct tape to cover floor of the work area.

WARNING: Do not reuse or resoak used rags in the bucket of water.

PREPARE THE SURFACE

- Mark area where the hole is required, on both sides if possible.
- Wipe area of hole with detergent-water dampened cloth and cover with duct tape.
- If the back of the sheet is accessible, clean and cover also.
- If a LEV dust control hood cannot be attached and other dust control methods, such as pastes and gels are unsuitable, then a second person must operate an asbestos vacuum cleaner as close as possible to the source of released asbestos fibres while the drill is being used.



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FOR A ROUND HOLE	FOR A SQUARE OR RECTANGULAR HOLE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select the appropriate sized hole-saw. • Cover the area to be cut, front and back if accessible with shaving foam. • Using a hand or low speed battery powered drill, carefully drill the hole through shaving foam and duct tape. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cover the area to be cut, front and back if accessible with shaving foam. • Using a hand or low speed battery powered drill, carefully drill through shaving foam and duct tape to produce a “start” hole in one corner. • Using the hand key-hole saw, saw around the edge of the hole required.

CLEANING UP

- Remove the piece of asbestos cement and use damp cloths to wipe all residue and shaving foam retained on the drill and saw.
- Carefully wipe down the area around the hole with a detergent-water damp cloths to remove all traces of foam.
- Remove duct tape.
- Place used cloths and duct tape in disposal bag.
- When clean, seal the edges of the hole with PVA paint.
- Ensure any electrical wiring passing through the hole is protected from contact with the edge of the asbestos cement.
- Carefully roll or fold plastic sheeting from floor, so any collected dust or debris do not spill.
- If necessary, use damp rags and/or an asbestos vacuum cleaner to clean any remaining visibly contaminated sections of work area.
- Place debris, used rags, plastic sheeting and other waste in disposal bag.
- Seal all disposal bags with duct tape and place each into a second plastic bag.
- Seal second bag and label/mark as “Asbestos waste”.
- Use damp rags to wipe external surfaces of the disposal bags to remove any dust before it’s removed from the work area.
- Place damp cloths in disposal bags, remove your personal protective equipment and double bag, seal with duct tape and mark as “Asbestos Waste”.
- Dispose of asbestos waste at the appropriate waste facility (Mugga Lane or Mitchell).

For more information, see the asbestos website (www.asbestos.act.gov.au) or contact 13 22 81.



CLEANING LEAF LITTER FROM GUTTERS OF ASBESTOS CEMENT ROOFS

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Asbestos is a hazardous substance.

Since the work is to be carried out at a height, appropriate precautions must be taken to prevent the risk of falls. Asbestos cement roofs can be extremely brittle. Do not walk on the roof without laying down boards. Avoid working in windy environments.

Follow the correct safety procedures and protect yourself from asbestos related disease.

EQUIPMENT

(In addition to any equipment required to complete the particular task)

- A bucket of detergent water.
- A watering can or garden spray.
- A hand trowel or scoop.
- Disposable cleaning rags.
- A suitable asbestos waste container (drum, bin or skip) lined with 200 micron (μm) thick plastic sheeting or 200 μm thick plastic bags.
- Warning signs and/or barrier tape.
- Industrial asbestos vacuum cleaner with HEPA filter.
- PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT – see separate fact sheet.

PREPARE THE WORK AREA

- Restrict entry (e.g. use warning signs and/or barrier tape at all entry points).
- Segregate the area below.

GUTTER CLEANING

- Disconnect or block the downpipes (e.g. using a tennis ball) to prevent any entry of contaminated water into the waste water system.
- Use watering can or garden spray to pour the detergent water into the gutter, but avoid creating a slurry.
- Use a scoop or trowel to remove the debris. Do not allow debris or slurry to enter the water system.
- Wet the debris again if dry material is uncovered.
- Place the removed debris straight into the asbestos waste container.

CLEANING UP

- Use damp rags to wipe down all equipment used and the guttering

WARNING: Do not resoak or reuse rags.

- Where practicable, and if necessary, use an asbestos vacuum cleaner to vacuum the area below.
- Place debris, used rags and other waste in the asbestos waste container.
- Seal asbestos waste container with lids or rims in good working order.
- Use damp cloths to wipe external surfaces of the asbestos waste container to remove any dust before it is removed from the asbestos work area and mark as "Asbestos Waste".
- Place damp clothes in disposal bags, remove your personal protective equipment and double bag, seal with duct tape and mark as "Asbestos Waste".
- Dispose of all waste, including all water, as asbestos waste at the appropriate waste facility (Mugga Lane).

For more information, see the asbestos website (www.asbestos.act.gov.au) or contact 13 22 81.



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REMOVAL OF < 10M² BONDED ASBESTOS CEMENT PRODUCTS

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Asbestos is a hazardous substance.

In the ACT, Tradespeople and maintenance workers must be trained to work with and remove up to 10 square metres of bonded asbestos. If you are not qualified or appropriately licensed to carry out this work, engage someone who is.

For removal of larger quantities of asbestos cement products, engage a licensed asbestos removalist to undertake this work.

Asbestos cement products are normally accessed as bonded material and present a low health risk. However, hail, storm and fire damaged asbestos cement products can pose a higher health risk and should be assessed by a licensed asbestos assessor to determine if friable before any work is carried out.

Follow the correct safety procedures and protect yourself from asbestos related disease.

EQUIPMENT

- Suitable asbestos waste containers (e.g. 200µm plastic bags or a drum, bin or skip lined with 200µm plastic sheeting).
- Heavy duty 200µm plastic sheeting.
- 200-micron thick (µm) plastic sheeting as drop sheets.
- Spray bottle filled with detergent water.
- Manually controlled, consistent low pressure, coarse spray, e.g. adjustable pistol-grip garden hose.
- PVA sealant and spray equipment (for roof sheeting).
- Warning signs and/or barrier tape.
- Punch.
- Chisel.
- Oxy torch or other suitable device.
- Disposable cleaning rags.
- Industrial asbestos vacuum cleaner with HEPA filter.
- PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT – see separate fact sheet.

PREPARE THE WORK AREA

- Consult with all necessary personnel and persons in adjoining properties.
- Remove all loose items from the work area.
- use plastic sheeting, secured with duct tape, to cover floor surface within work area.
- Segregate the asbestos work area(s) to restrict entry (e.g. close door and/or use warning signs and/or barrier tape at all entry points).

REMOVAL TIPS

- Always keep the work area clean, tidy and free from asbestos-cement debris.
- Where the method below is unsuitable e.g. electrical health hazards, use dry removal method (see 2005 NOHSC Code of Practice for the Safe Removal of Asbestos).



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REMOVING ASBESTOS-CEMENT SHEETING	REMOVING ASBESTOS CEMENT ROOFING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the asbestos-cement is behind ceramic tiles, use the method below to remove sufficient tiles to get access to the fixings of the sheet, taking care to minimise damage to the sheet. • Use the chisel to gently tap between the top of the tile and the backing sheet to release the tile. Do not dig the chisel into the backing sheet. As the tile is released, spray detergent water lightly behind the tile to prevent release of fibres. • Cut fixings with a cold chisel under the edge of the sheet, or cut around the head using a punch, again minimising damage to the sheet. • If necessary, punch nails through the sheeting to facilitate removal. • Remove all nails and asbestos waste from the timber. • Remove sheets with as little breakage as possible (never drop the asbestos-cement or use ramps, chutes or similar gravity-dependent devices). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spray asbestos-cement roofing with PVA prior to the removal process. The PVA must be dry before sheet removal begins, to avoid a slip hazard. • Asbestos-cement can become brittle with age, so any removal work on roofs must address the risk of fall hazards. • Avoid working in windy environments. • Do not use angle grinders, because of the potential for damage to the asbestos-cement and subsequent fibre release. • Remove anchoring screws/bolts from the roofing sheets using an oxy torch or another suitable device that will not significantly damage the sheet. • If there is lichen on roof sheeting, be cautious about using water and your choice of footwear because lichen can be slippery, especially when it is wet. • Lower roof sheeting to the ground using slings and/or lifting equipment. Do not throw sheeting to the ground or use chutes.

CLEANING UP

WARNING: Do not resoak or reuse rags.

- Wet sheets using a fine water spray. Once removed, wet backs of the sheets.
- Wrap sheets in plastic sheeting, seal with duct tape and place in asbestos waste container.
- Remove larger scrap from ground plastic sheet by hand and place in disposal bag.
- Carefully roll or fold plastic sheeting from floor, so any collected dust or debris do not spill.
- Use damp rags and/or an asbestos vacuum cleaner to clean your equipment and any remaining visibly contaminated sections of the work area e.g. the framework, ceiling spaces and exposed wall cavities.
Note: Rough sawn timber cannot be wet wiped or vacuumed, it should be sealed with PVA using low-pressure spray.
- Place used rags, plastic sheeting, screws/bolts and other waste in disposal bags.
- Seal all plastic bags with duct tape and place each into a second plastic bag.

- Seal this second plastic bag and label/mark as "Asbestos waste".
- Seal asbestos waste container with lids or rims in good working order.
- Use damp cloths to wipe external surfaces of the disposal bags/asbestos waste container to remove any dust before it is removed from the asbestos work area and mark as "Asbestos Waste".
- Place damp cloths in disposable bags, remove your personal protective equipment and double bag, seal with duct tape and mark as "Asbestos Waste".
- Dispose of asbestos waste at the appropriate waste facility (Mugga Lane or Mitchell).

For more information, see the asbestos website (www.asbestos.act.gov.au) or contact 13 22 81.