

# Repairing damaged asbestos cement (AC)

This information sheet sets out safe work techniques for repairing damaged asbestos cement (AC). When AC is cracked, peeling, flaking or crumbling – or otherwise damaged – it is more likely to release asbestos fibres when disturbed.

Read this information sheet alongside [Working with or near asbestos – good practice guidelines](#) which sets out seven steps for doing asbestos-related work.

## Before you start

### Tools and equipment you will need

Make sure you have all the standard equipment you need for doing asbestos-related work. See [Sections 5.3 and 7.0 of Working with or near asbestos – good practice guidelines](#) for details.

You will need the following equipment:

- H-class (high hazard) vacuum cleaner. Do not use domestic or general-purpose vacuum cleaners, even those with high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters
- trowel or scraper
- paint brush/roller
- construction adhesive
- permanent sealant
- low-pressure sprayer with water and added detergent



- wet wipes or a bucket of water (with added detergent) and clean rags
- asbestos waste bags and labels
- adhesive tape.

## Isolate the work area

Take steps to stop unauthorised people from entering the work area while the work is underway and until the area has been decontaminated at the end of the job:

- put barriers and signs up to keep people away from the work area
- close all access points - such as doors, windows or gates
- move items out of the way or cover and seal them with heavy-duty plastic sheeting, also use the sheeting on the ground/floor under and around the work area. This will save you having to decontaminate the items later
- set up your decontamination area.

See [Section 6.0 of Working with or near asbestos - good practice guidelines](#) for more detailed instructions.

## Put on your PPE and RPE

Make sure you are wearing the right PPE and RPE. See [Section 7.0 in Working with or near asbestos - good practice guidelines](#) for more detailed instructions.

To see more on RPE and PPE, watch these videos [How to wear a disposable respirator safely](#) and [How to wear a reusable respirator safely](#)

## Doing the job

### Safe work steps

#### Step 1

Clean up debris and loose material using H-class vacuum cleaner and/or damp rags/wet wipes.

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#### Step 2

Seal the damaged area with permanent sealant. Alternatively, protect the area by using construction adhesive to attach a non-asbestos panel over the damage. Then seal the panel using permanent sealant. Do not use screws or nails to attach.

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### Step 3

Warn the building owner about the presence of asbestos-containing material you have covered so it can be managed properly.



**FIGURE 1:** Paint or cover damaged area with permanent sealant

## Once you have finished

### Clean up and waste disposal

Put all disposable materials used during the work (such as polythene sheeting) in the asbestos waste bag then double bag it and tape it closed with a gooseneck tie. Clearly label it as containing asbestos.

- [Video: Disposing of asbestos waste and PPE safely](#)
- See [Section 10 of Working with or near asbestos – good practice guidelines](#) for more detailed instructions.

Thoroughly decontaminate the work area and all reusable tools and equipment used during the work.

- [Video: How to decontaminate tools safely](#)
- See [Section 9 of Working with or near asbestos: Guidance for tradespeople](#) for more detailed instructions.

### Personal decontamination

You must thoroughly decontaminate yourself.

- [Video: Taking off your respirator and PPE safely](#)
- See [Section 9 of Working with or near asbestos: Guidance for tradespeople](#) for more detailed written instructions.

### Final checks

- Visually inspect the area to make sure it is clean.

**Note:** These safe work techniques reflect recommended good practice. You can carry out this work using different practices, but you need to achieve or exceed the same levels of safety provided by these practices.