

Painting asbestos cement (AC) products

This information sheet sets out safe work techniques for painting asbestos cement (AC) that is in good condition. Painting AC products incorrectly can result in the product failing.

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:

- low-solvent paint
- airless low-pressure paint sprayer, paint brush or roller
- wet wipes or a bucket of water (with added detergent) and clean rags
- adhesive tape
- asbestos waste bags and labels.



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 polythene sheeting. 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

Check the asbestos cement surface before starting work. Clean up any debris and loose material being careful not to disturb the surface. Dispose of this material as asbestos waste.

Step 2

Wipe dusty surfaces with damp rag/wet wipe. Do not use overly forceful methods when preparing, repairing or cleaning the surface – such as sanding, wire brushes or harsh scraping. See Information sheet ARW06 for instructions on how to repair any damaged AC.

Step 3

Apply the paint, preferably using an airless sprayer set at low-pressure. Spray using a sweeping motion.

Step 4

If painting with a brush or roller, do it gently to avoid surface damage by focusing on one area.

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 – good practice guidelines](#) 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 – good practice guidelines](#) 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.