

# Repairing minor damage in asbestos insulating board (AIB)

This information sheet sets out safe work techniques for repairing small areas of asbestos insulating board (AIB) such as a broken corner or a scratch.



AIB is highly friable. When disturbed, the risk of releasing asbestos fibres is much greater than with non-friable asbestos, especially if the AIB is unsealed or in poor condition. If the AIB you need to work on is unsealed, unpainted, or in poor condition you will need to use additional control measures to keep yourself and others safe. Consider engaging a competent person such as a Class A licensed asbestos removalist to provide advice and/or do the work.

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 also 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
- construction adhesive



- permanent sealant
- non-asbestos replacement panel for covering gaps
- airless, low-pressure paint spray gun or small paint brush/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 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

Paint the damaged area with permanent sealant by brush/roller or gentle spraying with airless low-pressure spray gun.

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#### Step 2

After drying, cover gaps with the replacement panel to contain any asbestos fibres.

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### Step 3

Attach the replacement panel with construction adhesive.

### Step 4

Remove dust using an H-class vacuum cleaner **or** damp rags/wet wipes **or** both.



**FIGURE 1:** Wipe up dust and debris with a damp rag/wet wipe

## 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.