

Removing an asbestos cement panel

This information sheet sets out safe work practices for removing asbestos cement panels. Asbestos cement panels were often used for exterior and interior walls, roofing materials, and soffits.



If the amount of asbestos cement to be removed is more than 10m², the removal must be done by a licensed asbestos removalist.

Read this information sheet alongside the [Asbestos removal – good practice guidelines](#). Make sure you are familiar with the general requirements for asbestos removal as explained in these guidelines before doing any asbestos removal.

Before you start

Tools and equipment you will need

You will need the following equipment:

- warning tape and notices
- heavy-duty polythene sheeting
- strong adhesive tape
- sharp knife
- hammer
- H-Class vacuum cleaner with shroud (if drilling out nail holes)
- webbing straps and rope
- non-asbestos replacement panel (if applicable)
- bucket of water and rags
- asbestos waste bag, or sealable skip or hazardous waste rated transportation bag large enough to hold the removed material
- clear, heavy-duty polythene bag
- PPE and RPE.



Isolate the work area

Take steps to stop unauthorised people from entering the work area while the removal 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
- lay down heavy-duty polythene sheeting on the ground around and under the work area
- set up your decontamination area
- for removing non-friable asbestos less than 10m² an enclosure is not normally required. See [Section 9.3 of the Asbestos removal – good practice guidelines](#)
- see [Section 8.0 of the Asbestos removal – good practice guidelines](#) for more detailed written instructions.

Put on your PPE and RPE

Make sure you are wearing the right PPE and RPE.

- For PPE and RPE requirements see [Section 17 of the Asbestos removal – good practice guidelines](#)
- [Video: How to wear a disposable respirator safely](#)
- [Video: How to wear a reusable respirator safely](#)

Doing the job

Safe removal procedures

Step 1a: If you can remove panel intact

Remove beading/nails to allow clear access to the panel. Cut beading or prise out nails. If you need to drill out nail holes – use shadow vacuuming technique. Put beading and nails or screws in the waste bag.

Step 1b: If you cannot remove the panel intact

Breaking up the panel should be avoided whenever possible as it increases the risk of exposure to asbestos fibres. If breaking the panel is unavoidable, attach strong adhesive tape over the surface. Carefully break it into large pieces with a hammer.

Step 2

Carefully lower the pieces to the ground.

Step 3

Wrap the pieces in heavy duty polyethene sheeting and seal with strong adhesive tape. Place the wrapped sheet and debris in the securable skip.

Place small pieces of debris in the asbestos waste bag. Wrap any sharp edges so they cannot poke holes in the asbestos waste bag.

Step 4

Clean the remaining surfaces with damp rags to collect dust and debris.

Step 5

Fit a non-asbestos replacement panel (if applicable).

Once you have finished

Clean up and waste disposal

Put all disposable materials used during the removal (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 14 of the Asbestos removal – good practice guidelines](#) for detailed written instructions.

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

- [Video: How to decontaminate tools safely](#)
- See [Section 16 of the Asbestos removal – good practice guidelines](#) for detailed written instructions.

Personal decontamination

You must thoroughly decontaminate yourself.

- [Video: Taking off your respirator and PPE safely](#)
- See [Section 15 of the Asbestos removal – good practice guidelines](#) for more detailed written instructions.

Final checks

- Visually inspect the area to make sure it is clean.
- Clearance air monitoring is not normally required for this task.