

# Removing a non-friable asbestos-containing gas or electric heater

This information sheet sets out safe work practices for removing a single gas heater (catalytic, radiant, coal- or log-effect) or an electric heater (storage, radiant).



If the product is attached to asbestos insulating board (AIB) that is being removed, or has asbestos textile insulation on the power cable, it will have to be removed by a Class-A licensed asbestos removalist. See [Section 2.0 of the Asbestos removal – good practice guidelines](#)

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
- H-Class vacuum cleaner
- strong adhesive tape
- screwdriver and spanners
- low pressure sprayer containing water mixed with detergent (1 part detergent to 8 parts water)
- bucket of water and rags
- asbestos waste bag
- clear, heavy-duty polythene bag
- PPE and RPE.



See [Section 12 of the Asbestos removal - good practice guidelines](#) for more information about tools and equipment, including prohibited tools.

See [Section 17 of the Asbestos removal - good practice guidelines](#) for detailed PPE and RPE requirements.

## 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 10m<sup>2</sup> 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 1

Step 1 Have a competent electrician isolate the appliance from the electricity supply or have a registered gasfitter disconnect gas appliances and make them safe.

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#### Step 2

Remove the cover, wipe it with damp rags and set it aside.

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### Step 3

Vacuum inside the appliance to remove all loose material.

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### Step 4

Dampen the parts that may contain asbestos, such as panels, board, paper, string and fire cement.

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### Step 5

Unscrew or unbolt fixed parts using shadow vacuuming. Put the fixings in the asbestos waste bag.

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### Step 6

Remove panels or parts intact and put them in the asbestos waste bag.

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### Step 7

Vacuum inside the carcass before removal. If it is attached to AIB, unscrew it using shadow vacuuming. Put the screws in the asbestos waste bag.

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### Step 8

Double-wrap the carcass and the cover with Heavy-duty polythene sheeting. Seal with heavy duty adhesive tape. Attach asbestos warning stickers -  
**Caution: Asbestos – Do not open or damage bag. Do not inhale dust.**

## 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.