

Removing fuse box with asbestos-containing Bakelite backing board

This information sheet sets out safe work practices for removing a fuse box that has an asbestos-containing backing board.

Many older style fuse boxes had (non-friable) asbestos containing backing boards (Bakelite). They also often had other (friable) asbestos parts such as asbestos textile or pure chrysotile flash guards. If there are any friable parts still present, the fuse box must be removed by a Class A asbestos removalist. If the fuse box is attached to asbestos insulating board (AIB), it will also have to be removed by a Class-A removalist. Check with an asbestos surveyor before you start work if you are unsure.



If the amount of asbestos product to be removed is more than 10m², the removal must be done by a licensed 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
- H-Class vacuum cleaner
- screwdriver
- bucket of water and rags
- asbestos waste bag



- clear, heavy-duty polythene bag
- replacement fuse box (if relevant)
- 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
- have an electrician isolate and lock off the electricity supply, and test to show that the system is not live
- 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 1

Remove connections and carefully unscrew using 'shadow vacuuming'. Place the screws in the waste bag.

Step 2

Loosen and remove the fuse box. Put it in the asbestos waste bag.

Step 3

Vacuum clean and/or wipe all surfaces

Step 4

If relevant, install the new fuse box. Make sure it is attached to a non-asbestos surface.

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.