



Asbestos

in your home



**Catalyst
Housing**

**Asbestos: what it is,
where to find it and
how to deal with it**

What is asbestos?

Asbestos is a natural mineral. It was used in a wide range of building materials, particularly from the 1950s until the mid-1980s. Its main purpose was for fireproofing and insulation.

Where is it found?

Asbestos may be present in any building that was built or refurbished before the year 2000, when regulation banned its use altogether. It is mostly found in sprayed coatings such as fire protection on structural supports (such as columns and beams), pipe lagging, insulating board on doors, ceilings and windows, floor tiles, roof sheeting and textured coatings such as artex.

When is asbestos harmful?

Asbestos is only harmful when it is damaged and its fibres and dust are released into the air. The greatest risk is when it is drilled, sawn, scrubbed or sanded.

It is impossible to see the fibres – they are microscopic (about 1,000 times smaller than the diameter of a human hair). The only way to detect them is through a laboratory test.

Asbestos is only harmful when it is damaged. If it is in good condition it is safe and should be left alone

Breathing in high concentrations of asbestos fibre or dust over a period of time can lead to lung diseases, including cancer. Asbestos-related diseases do not affect you immediately, but can do so in later life. It is essential to protect yourself now to avoid illness in the future.



How do I recognise asbestos?

You cannot easily recognise asbestos. Materials that contain asbestos often look exactly the same as modern building materials that don't contain it. It is mainly older products that contain asbestos as its use in most materials has been banned since 1993.

There are three main types of asbestos which have been used in building materials and consumer goods – white, brown and blue. You can't tell if it is asbestos just by looking at it. But the chances are that if your house was built before 1985, materials used in the following areas are likely to contain asbestos:

- central heating flues
- boilers
- linings for walls, ceilings and doors

Do not remove the asbestos

Don't try to repair it or clean it up yourself. Don't use a brush or vacuum cleaner as this will spread the asbestos fibres into the air.

Call our customer services team and we will deal with it. Our first commitment is to keep you safe.



- insulation panels in some storage heaters
- bath panels
- floor tiles
- ceiling finishes
- eaves, gutters and rainwater fall pipes
- artificial ashes and embers in gas fireplaces – the bits that glow to make it look more like a real fire
- garage and shed roofs

Modern loft or cavity wall insulation does not contain asbestos but it may still be found in lofts and within wall and floor cavities in buildings constructed before 2000.

If you have access to the internet, you can see pictures of asbestos in many different uses at www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/gallery.htm

What should I do if I find asbestos?

If the asbestos is in good condition, it is often better to leave it alone. Removing it can release high concentrations of asbestos fibres that can remain in the air for a long time. Check it regularly to make sure it is not damaged or decaying. If you do have asbestos in your home, always tell builders, maintenance workers or contractors before they start any work.

If asbestos is damaged, or breaking down with age, or in a place where it can easily be disturbed, it is best to have it removed or sealed. This work often needs to be carried out by a specialist licensed contractor.

What is Catalyst doing about asbestos?

We will minimise the risk from asbestos to our residents, visitors and contractors. We will:

- carry out surveys to identify materials that contain asbestos in our properties, where needed
- give residents information about where we know there are materials containing asbestos and their condition
- provide details about which materials may contain asbestos

What you can do to reduce the risks

DO – call our customer services team if you have any concerns about asbestos in your home

DON'T – ignore it

DON'T – sand, drill or saw asbestos materials. Please seek our advice before carrying out any structural DIY work. Remember, you may need permission to do the work under the terms of your tenancy.



- assess and manage the risk from all known materials that contain asbestos
- compile and maintain a register of where there is asbestos
- ensure that anyone who might disturb these materials follows appropriate health and safety procedures

This leaflet gives information about asbestos.
If you need any of this information in large print,
Braille, on audio-tape or explained in your own language,
please contact us on the number below.

Arabic

تمتلك هذه الوثيقة بالمعلومات اللازمة عن الاسبيستوس. إذا كنت ترغب في الحصول على أي جزء من هذه المعلومات مطبوعاً بأحرف كبيرة أو بطريقة برايل أو مسجلاً على اسطوانة مدمجة أو شريط صوتي أو مشروحاً باللغة التي تتحدثها، يرجى الاتصال بنا على الرقم الموضح أدناه.

Hindi

यह दस्तावेज़ एस्बस्टस के बारे में जानकारी देता है। अगर आप इस जानकारी के किसी भी हिस्से को ब्रेल, सीडी, ऑडियो टेप में चाहते हैं या अपनी भाषा में समझना चाहते हैं, तो कृपया नीचे दिए गए नम्बर पर हमसे सम्पर्क करें।

Portuguese

Este documento proporciona-lhe informações sobre amianto. Se necessitar de parte desta informação em caracteres aumentados, em Braille, em CD, cassette áudio ou apresentada no seu idioma, por favor contacte-nos, através do telefone abaixo indicado.

Somali

Dokumentigan wuxuu ku saabsan yahay macdan. Haddaad u baahan tahay warkan afkaaga-hooyo, afka loogu talagalay dadka aan arki karaan – afka faraha ama CD-ga ama ajeladda rekorka nala xirir. Namberkan isticmaal.

Gujarati

આ દસ્તાવેજ અગિનથી બળે નહિ તેવી વસ્તુ વિશે માહિતી આપે છે. જો તમારે કોઈ પણ ભાગની આ માહિતી બ્રેઈલ, સીડી ઉપર, ઓડિયો ટેપ અથવા તમારી પોતાની ભાષામાં સમજી શકો તેની જરૂર હોય તો નીચે જણાવેલ નંબર ઉપર અમારો સંપર્ક કરો.

Polish

Niniejszy dokument zawiera informacje o azbestie. Jeżeli potrzebujesz aby całość lub część tego tekstu były przedstawione większą czcionką, w języku Braille'a, na nośniku CD, na kasecie audio lub zostały przetłumaczone na Twój język ojczysty, prosimy o kontakt pod podanym niżej numerem.

Punjabi

ਇਹ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਐਸਬੋਸਟਾਸ ਬਾਰੇ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਦਿੰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਸ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਦੇ ਕਿਸੇ ਹਿੱਸੇ ਨੂੰ ਬ੍ਰੇਲ, ਸੀਡੀ, ਆਡੀਓ ਟੇਪ ਵਿੱਚ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ ਜਾਂ ਆਪਣੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਮਝਣਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਗਏ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

Urdu

یہ دستاویز ایبیسٹس (تپش روک دھات) کے بارے میں معلومات فراہم کرتا ہے۔ ان معلومات کے کسی حصہ کی اگر آپ کو بریل، سی ڈی، آڈیو ٹیپ یا اپنی زبان میں وضاحت کی ضرورت ہو تو، براہ کرم ہم سے نیچے دیے گئے نمبر پر رابطہ کریں۔

0300 456 2099

**Better Homes.
Better Service.
Better Future.**



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Catalyst is one of the leading housing associations in London and the South East. We aim to be a catalyst for change and improvement wherever we work.



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(London customers)

Call: **0300 456 2090**
(South East customers)

Visit: www.chg.org.uk

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**Catalyst
Housing**

A charitable housing association, IPS no.16561R