

# Fact Sheet

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## Asbestos

- The Building Commission advises Victorians undertaking clean up in their home, following the devastating Victorian floods to take precautions to eliminate asbestos exposure.
- The removal of asbestos must be done using appropriate safety precautions.
- Asbestos was widely used in many building materials between 1940 until the early 1980s, most commonly in homes made with 'Fibro' or 'AC sheeting'. It is potentially hazardous when broken, cracked or disturbed in activities that produce dust.
- Asbestos-cement products in homes can be maintained, removed and disposed of safely and legally as long as the necessary safety measures are taken.
- If you have are able to, engage a licensed asbestos removalist to do the work.
- If you have difficulty engaging a licensed asbestos remover, rather than putting yourself or your family and neighbours at risk, it is recommended that you contact your local council about the safe removal and collection of asbestos.

## Asbestos fast facts

- Asbestos in homes or buildings is usually only a health risk when it is disturbed in a way that produces fibres or dust containing asbestos.
- Asbestos was most commonly used in many building materials in Victoria before the early 1980s because of its durability, fire resistance and insulating properties.
- Asbestos is found in two forms:
  - The most common is firmly bound material, such as asbestos-cement sheeting, fibro water or flue pipes, roof shingles and imitation cladding.
  - The second form is loosely bound asbestos material used in older types of insulation for hot water pipes, domestic heaters and stoves, and ceiling insulation. In most instances, glass fibres have replaced asbestos in today's insulation products.

- The importation and manufacture of asbestos and asbestos containing materials is now banned in Australia.
- Your local council and registered building practitioners will know the safety requirements in working with and removing asbestos and will organise a licensed asbestos removal.
- Engage a licensed asbestos removalist.

## **More Information**

- Contact the Worksafe Victoria Advisory Service on 1800 136 089 or refer to the Worksafe website [www.worksafe.vic.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au)
- For more information on the safe removal of asbestos from your home visit [www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/downloads/asbestos\\_home2003.pdf](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/downloads/asbestos_home2003.pdf)
- For more information on Asbestos, contact your local council or visit: [www.buildingcommission.com.au](http://www.buildingcommission.com.au).