



RENOVATING?

THINK**ASBESTOS**

If you're thinking renovation, you must think asbestos.

Until the mid-1980s, asbestos was widely used in a range of home building materials. If your house was built or renovated during this era, **it is likely you have asbestos in your home.**

Removing or working with building materials that contain asbestos can release asbestos fibres, creating a health risk. These fibres are too small to see, but if they are breathed in they can cause an incurable cancer known as mesothelioma as well as other illnesses. There is no safe level of asbestos exposure.

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Asbestos fibres were bonded with other materials, such as cement or resin, to create products including flat and corrugated “fibro” sheeting; water, drainage and flue pipes; floor tiles; roofing shingles and guttering.



Photo: courtesy of DECC

You can't tell by looking at it whether a wall, floor, roof or pipe contains asbestos. If in doubt, assume asbestos is present.

Removing or disturbing asbestos is a dangerous and complicated process best carried out by professionals who have completed the necessary training.

If you were to consider removing a small amount of asbestos yourself, to protect your health and that of those around you, at the very minimum you would need to meticulously follow a number of guidelines relating to the protective clothing you should wear, the precautions you need to put in place to protect those in the area, and how you package and dispose of the materials you remove.

Your local council may also have policies regarding the removal of asbestos.

For more information on asbestos in the home and the precautions you must take, visit: