

Guidance Notes

Where is asbestos likely to be used in buildings?

Why Use Asbestos?

Asbestos fibres are extremely durable and have very useful properties.

- Heat Stability
- Good Electrical and Thermal Insulation
- Easily woven fibres, resistant to acids and alkalis
- Over 3,000 uses of asbestos have been identified



Major Recent Uses

- Thermal insulation and fire protection
- Asbestos cement
- Friction materials and gaskets
- Seals
- Textiles
- Composites



Spray Coatings

- Most likely to release fibres if disturbed
- Sprayed onto structural steel work as fire protection from 1935-1973.
- It was also used as thermal and acoustic insulation (e.g. Church ceiling and swimming pools)
- Much of this asbestos was of the 'Blue' or 'Brown' variety.
- Whole teams of asbestos sprayers in the UK died of asbestos related diseases.



Thermal Insulation

- Insulation of pipes, boiler, pressure vessels
- Asbestos content up to 85%
- All types or mixtures of types of asbestos used
- Some mixed and applied by hand (hard-set lagging)
- Some insulation pre-formed (sectional lagging)
- Fibres easily released if not sealed

Asbestos Cement Products

- Cost effective
- Resistant to decay
- Asbestos content typically 10-15%
- Asbestos type usually predominantly Chrysotile
- Contained crocidolite up to 1969
- May contain amosite up to 1980
- Produced until November 1999
- Corrugated roof sheets
- Rainwater goods
- Soffit boards to roofs and canopies
- Shelving in labs and greenhouses
- Undercloaking to roof tiles
- Wall and ceiling panels
- Flashguards to electrical switch gear
- Riser panels and door linings
- Spandrel Panels
- Water tanks
- Water pipes
- Under lining to Formica
- Boiler / burner flues



Asbestos Insulating Board

- Wall panels
- Ceiling tiles and panels
- Soffit boards to roofs and canopies
- Firebreak panels in ceiling voids
- Cladding to ducting
- Riser panel and door linings



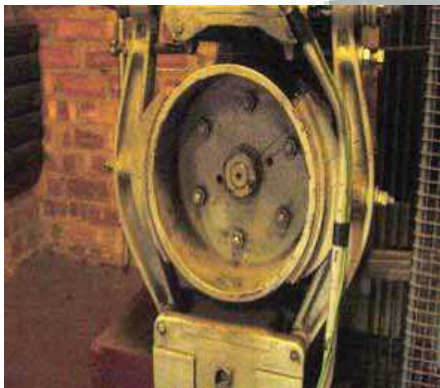
- Beading / lining to fire doors
- Cladding to structural steelwork
- Heat resistant panels to cookers/burners
- Boiler lining
- Lab fume cabinet linings
- Lift shaft linings
- Packing to studwork



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Friction Materials

- Asbestos was used as brake and clutch linings
- It was durable and resistant to heat and oil
- In 1996 friction materials constituted about 26% (1,850 tonnes) of the total UK use
- In November 1999 Chrysotile (white) asbestos was banned for intentional use in clutches and brake linings and then allowed for automotive use in CAR2006.



Gaskets and Sealing Materials

Asbestos was used extensively in gaskets and sealing materials.

- Braided asbestos
- Cloths and tapes
- Moulded gland packing and laminated plastics
- Some gaskets were made of compressed asbestos fibres mixed with other materials
- In 1996 these products accounted for 21% (1500 tonnes) of UK use.



Textiles and Composites

The main textile and composite products containing asbestos:

- Woven Tapes
- Webbing
- Cloths and Yarns
- In 1996 these products accounted for 3.5% (250 tonnes) of UK use



Various Other ACMs

- Gaskets – sheet and pre-formed
- Thermoplastic floor tiles
- Decorative coatings and textured paints
- Roof tiles
- Window sills
- RBT-plugs
- Toilet cisterns and seats



- Electric cable wrap
- Clothing – gloves / aprons
- Fire blankets
- Plastics
- Paper
- Pads under sinks



Further Help

ATAC's members offer independent impartial advice on all aspects of asbestos management, remediation and asbestos removal.

Please visit www.atac.org.uk to find a member who can help you.