

## Asbestos sampling and testing

Do not attempt to obtain a sample without talking to the laboratory first. Accredited testing and analysis laboratories include:

Capital Environmental Services Lower Hutt	04 566 3311
Precise Consulting	03 943 5394
Dowdell & Associates (Auckland)	09 526 0246
K2 Environmental	03 384 8966
Hill Laboratories	03 377 7176

The following Christchurch companies can come and take samples and send them to an approved laboratory for testing:

Chem Safety	03 366 3700
Precise Consulting	03 943 5394
K2 Environmental	03 384 8966
WorkSafe Canterbury	022 099 6764
Triex	03 343 2997

From [www.asbestosaware.co.nz](http://www.asbestosaware.co.nz). To find out more about preparing a sample, visit [www.fibres.co.nz](http://www.fibres.co.nz)

*Please note that this list is not definitive and is provided for information purposes only. It should not be seen to imply any guarantee or approval by Council or the New Zealand Demolition & Asbestos Association. See the Yellow Pages or [alturl.com/vgufx](http://alturl.com/vgufx) for a full list of approved providers.*



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## Asbestos – Lead Agency responsibilities

Function	Lead Agency
Identification of asbestos in a home	Community and Public Health
Removal of asbestos by a contractor	WorkSafe NZ
Transportation of asbestos by a contractor	WorkSafe NZ
Final disposal of asbestos by contractor	WorkSafe NZ & ECan
General dust issues	ECan
Land use - the ability to use land to store waste and process material.	Christchurch City Council

*Note that where a contractor or firm is carrying out paid work, the site becomes a workplace and then generally falls under WorkSafe NZ (OSH/Labour Department) jurisdiction.*

### Useful numbers:

CERA	0800 7464 2372
Christchurch City Council	941 8999
ECan	353 9007
WorkSafe NZ	0800 030 040
Community Public Health	364 1777

### Environmental Health Team

CO-Inspections and Enforcement Unit  
77 Hereford Street, 5th Floor, PO Box 73049  
Telephone: 941 8999. Email: [info@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:info@ccc.govt.nz)  
Or visit our website: [www.ccc.govt.nz](http://www.ccc.govt.nz)

# Asbestos removal

## Advice for homeowners



## What is asbestos?

Asbestos is a tough mineral fibre, often found in Christchurch homes built up until the 1990s. It is found in many forms from linoleum to insulation and building materials such as insulating boards, wall cladding, damp proof courses, etc.

It was commonly added to cement and plaster to strengthen and add fire resistance properties.

## Identifying asbestos

The only way to be certain whether your home contains asbestos is to contact Community and Public Health's Health Protection Officers, phone 364 1777. They can assist with identification of bulk samples, linoleum etc.

You can also talk to an asbestos sampling or testing firm listed in the Yellow Pages.

## Hazards

If the materials containing asbestos are in good condition and intact, they may not pose a significant danger of releasing asbestos fibres to the air.

If however the materials are degraded or friable (crumbly) such as when they are drilled into, sawn or handled, fibres may be released into the air you are breathing.

Breathing in asbestos fibres may cause serious health problems, including lung disease and cancer, usually many years after exposure.

The risk of these diseases increases with the amount of asbestos dust in the air and the amount of time you are exposed.



(L) An old asbestos roof

(R) asbestos fibres

## DIY or use a professional?

Using professional asbestos services firms is preferred as asbestos represents a significant health risk.

Asbestos should be removed, transported and disposed of in an approved manner in accordance with the Health and Safety in Employment (Asbestos) Regulations 1998.

These regulations are administered by the Labour Department/OSH Inspectors, now known as WorkSafe NZ, phone 0800 030 040.

Contractors or firms that are members of the New Zealand Demolition and Asbestos Association (NZDAA) should be used where possible to ensure compliance.

An expanded nation-wide list of NZDAA members is also available on their web site: [www.demolition-asbestos.co.nz](http://www.demolition-asbestos.co.nz)

## Advantages of using a professional

- Expert identification of asbestos backed by a laboratory.
- Minimal risk to you, your neighbours and future house occupants.
- Protection of your assets and property value.
- Facilitates compliance with the Health and Safety in Employment (Asbestos) Regulations 1998.

## Information on home asbestos removal

You need the right equipment and knowledge to keep yourself safe when removing asbestos.

The Community and Public Health guide for homeowners, Removing Asbestos from the Home, has information on how to remove asbestos safely and appropriate protective gear — link below or phone (03) 3364 1777:

[www.healthed.govt.nz/resource/removing-asbestos-home](http://www.healthed.govt.nz/resource/removing-asbestos-home)

WorkSafe NZ also has fact sheets on working with asbestos: [www.business.govt.nz/worksafe/information-guidance/all-guidance-items/asbestos-factsheets](http://www.business.govt.nz/worksafe/information-guidance/all-guidance-items/asbestos-factsheets)

## The right equipment

Several local safety shops have protective equipment and asbestos bagging options:

Blackwoods Protector Safety	0800 660 660
NZ Safety	03 349 2383
Snell Packaging & Safety	03 344 1995
Chemwaste – have one-ton capacity 3m <sup>3</sup> asbestos disposal bags.	03 384 5435
ARE(NZ) Ltd – an asbestos equipment specialist at Rangiora with an extensive range of specialised asbestos removal and control equipment.	021 222 8088

## Protecting yourself and others

Anyone doing asbestos work in the home must:

- Clear the area and surroundings of people and pets. Children and animals must be unable to enter the area. Consider advising your neighbours if working outside.
- Use a P1-P2 type dust respirator at all times as a minimum. Full face/pressurised masks are better still — get expert advice on the correct type of respirator from one of the above firms selling safety equipment.
- Wear protective clothing and a respiratory mask at all times until all work has been completed and the area is fully cleaned up.
- Wear disposable overalls (with hood), gloves and shoe coverings to keep dust off your clothes and skin.
- As part of good work practice, do not eat, drink or smoke while working with asbestos.
- Contain asbestos carefully and dispose only at an approved asbestos depot ie. Metro Place in Bromley who accept up to 1000 kilograms of asbestos provided it is sealed or bagged in plastic.

To learn more about asbestos and removal from the home visit:  
[www.healthed.govt.nz/resource/all-about-asbestos](http://www.healthed.govt.nz/resource/all-about-asbestos)  
or  
[www.healthed.govt.nz/resource/removing-asbestos-home](http://www.healthed.govt.nz/resource/removing-asbestos-home)