

Since 21 May 2004, The Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations 2002 (CAWR) have included a duty to manage asbestos in non-domestic premises.

This important legislation tackles the biggest occupational health killer in the UK - asbestos-related disease. Of the 3,500 people currently dying each year from such diseases 25% have once worked in the building and maintenance trades and often would have worked unknowingly on or near to asbestos containing materials (ACMs). Whilst virtually all other activities involving potential exposure to asbestos have now ceased, this vulnerable group is still at considerable risk from unknowing exposure to asbestos.

The duty seeks to prevent further unknowing exposure to asbestos by building and maintenance workers with the aim of saving 5,000 lives over the next 100 years.

## Refurbishment think first Is it asbestos free



### Asbestos Exposure

**If in doubt - don't rip it out !**

Asbestos fibres may be released when:-

- Drilling holes
- Cutting with hand and power tools
- Breaking up materials
- Dismantling/demolition

Asbestos was used extensively as a building material in GB from the 1950s through to the mid 1980s. Although some of this material has been removed over the years, there are many thousands of tonnes of asbestos still present in buildings. It is estimated that over half a million non-domestic premises currently have some form of asbestos in them. There is extensive repair and removal work, which will continue for the foreseeable future.

For further information please contact your local Council's health and safety team, in confidence on:

**Nuneaton & Bedworth D.C:** 02476 376138  
**Stratford District Council:** 01789 267375  
**Warwick District Council:** 0126 456712  
**North Warwickshire D.C:** 01827 715341  
**Rugby Borough Council:** 01788 533850  
**Coventry City Council:** 02476 831859

# Is Asbestos present?

builders  
plumbers  
electricians  
carpenters  
and other allied trades

**That means you !**

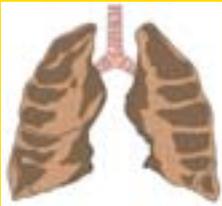


At least 3500 people in Great Britain die each year from mesothelioma and asbestos related lung cancer as a result of past exposure to asbestos. Annual numbers of deaths are predicted to go on rising into the next decade.

# R U at RISK???



Analyses of mesothelioma deaths indicate that many deaths are due to heavy asbestos exposures in industries like shipbuilding and railway engineering in the past. If current control measures are not adhered to, asbestos removal workers are now potentially at the highest risk, as are workers involved in the refurbishment, repair or maintenance of buildings - such as



plumbers,  
carpenters and  
electricians.



## Where is asbestos found in buildings?

You are most likely to come across asbestos in these materials:

- sprayed asbestos and asbestos loose packing - generally used as fire breaks in ceiling voids
- moulded or preformed lagging - generally used in thermal insulation of pipes and boilers
- sprayed asbestos - generally used as fire protection in ducts, firebreaks, panels, partitions, soffit boards, ceiling panels and around structural steel work
- insulating boards used for fire protection, thermal insulation, partitioning and ducts
- some ceiling tiles
- millboard, paper and paper products used for insulation of electrical equipment. Asbestos paper has also been used as a fire-proof facing on wood fibreboard
- asbestos cement products, which can be fully or semi-compressed into flat or corrugated sheets. Corrugated sheets are largely used as roofing and wall cladding. Other asbestos cement products include gutters, rainwater pipes and water tanks
- certain textured coatings
- bitumen roofing material and
- vinyl or thermoplastic floor tiles.

Although these are the most likely uses and places where asbestos will be found, asbestos was used in many other materials. If you are in doubt, it is safer to presume that a material contains asbestos, unless there is strong evidence that it does not.

## Duty Requirements

Those in control of premises must:

Provide information on the location and condition of the materials to anyone who is liable to work on or disturb them . . . builders, plumbers, electricians, carpenters and other allied trades . . . ->

### That means you !

They must also:-

- determine location(s) & condition of materials likely to contain asbestos, (ACMs - Asbestos Containing Materials)
- presume materials contain asbestos unless there is strong evidence that they do not
- make and keep an up to date record of actual and suspect ACM location and condition
- assess the risk of anyone being exposed to fibres from these materials
- prepare a plan showing how risks from materials are to be managed and put it into action.