



HEALTH AND SAFETY

Promoting a safer place to work and study

HEALTH AND SAFETY BULLETIN

Asbestos Containing Materials

Who needs to read this?

All Curtin University Staff & Students

Background

The purpose of this bulletin is to raise awareness regarding possible Asbestos Containing Materials and their [management](#) at Curtin University.

Information

Asbestos is a group of naturally occurring mineral fibres that due to unique properties were extensively used in many products by various industries. The three most common types of asbestos include chrysotile (white asbestos), amosite (brown asbestos) and crocidolite (blue asbestos). The use and importing of asbestos containing materials was banned in Australia on 31 December 2003. Asbestos products which were in situ on 31 December 2003 may only be replaced by products which do not contain asbestos

Asbestos fibres **may** become airborne whenever they are disturbed, causing a **potential** health risk to persons if fibres are released within the person's breathing zone. Disturbance may occur from direct action such as drilling or cutting, inspection and removal processes, maintenance, refurbishment, renovation and demolition of buildings, or weathering.

How do I know if something contains asbestos?

The University's Health and Safety Department hold and maintain the Asbestos Register for the organisation. Asbestos presence in materials cannot be determined by visual inspection. The only way to confirm the presence of asbestos is through analysis of samples.

What does Curtin do to reduce the risk?

- The known locations of asbestos containing materials is inspected and assessed on a yearly basis any updates are added to the asbestos register



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- Prior to any refurbishment a more intrusive survey/inspection is carried out to identify any asbestos material
- Any removal of asbestos containing materials is undertaken by a WorkSafe licenced company

What can I do?

If suspected asbestos containing material has been located or disturbed then you should take the following steps immediately:

- Cease any activity which may cause further disturbance to the asbestos containing material.
- Report the asbestos hazard verbally to Curtin Health & Safety on 9266 4900, your supervisor and the designated Safety and Health Representative.
- Isolate the area to restrict access.
- Report all incidents, no matter how minor, on the [University online incident reporting system](#) – CHARM

Who do we call with questions?

If you have any queries, please contact Health & Safety on 9266 4900, email healthandsafety@curtin.edu.au or view the [Asbestos Awareness Presentation](#)

References

[Asbestos Management Plan](#) – Curtin University

[Code of practice for the management and control of asbestos in workplaces](#) [NOHSC:2018(2005)]

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