

# ASBESTOS IN THE HOME

GUIDANCE FOR TENANTS

**CAUTION**  
**ASBESTOS**  
**HAZARDOUS**  
DO NOT DISTURB  
WITHOUT PROPER  
TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT

# ASBESTOS IN THE HOME

## What is asbestos?

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral made up of many small fibres. Asbestos fibres are very strong and resistant to heat and chemicals. Over the years it has been used in a wide range of building materials and products.



## Why might asbestos be a problem?

Asbestos is not dangerous itself. It only becomes dangerous if materials containing asbestos are damaged or deteriorate with age. When damaged, asbestos releases tiny fibres into the air and breathing in high levels of these fibres may cause damage to your health.

It is very unlikely that you have harmful levels of asbestos-containing materials in your home, but you must seek advice if you think asbestos is present.

**Asbestos is dangerous if the material containing asbestos is damaged, drilled, cut, sawn, scrubbed or sanded. Therefore DIY work can cause high levels of exposure.**

**If you think a material might contain asbestos, don't disturb it. Please contact us using the contact details on the back of this leaflet.**

**Please remember:** under your tenancy agreement with Family Housing, if you wish to carry out improvements to your home, you must obtain written permission from us before starting any work. Failure to do so, means that you will be solely liable for any costs resulting from dealing with an asbestos-related incident, as well as the full cost of reinstatement.

## How do you know if a material contains asbestos?

It is not always easy to tell whether a product in your home contains asbestos. It is usually older products that contain asbestos as the use of asbestos in most products has been banned since 1993.

## Asbestos do's and don'ts

- Do treat asbestos with care.
  - Do soak wallpaper before removing it. If possible, use a steam stripper and then gently peel away the paper before re-decorating.
  - Do remember asbestos can be hazardous to health if handled incorrectly.
  - Don't drill, sand, saw or disturb any asbestos-containing materials which are in good condition.
  - Don't carry out any DIY work on any part of your home which you think may contain asbestos. Seek advice from us first.
  - Don't try to remove textured coatings from ceilings. Wash any areas of flaking paint before re-painting.
- Don't try to remove old floor tiles or linoleum. Leave them in place and lay new floor coverings over them.
  - Don't throw asbestos away in the rubbish. You must seek advice from Family Housing to make the necessary arrangements to dispose of asbestos safely.

If you think asbestos may be in your home, or if you want to make any improvements to your home, please contact us. Full details on how to contact us can be found on the back of this leaflet.

## Family Housing's asbestos policy

Asbestos can be found in many buildings and homes across the UK and we need to ensure our properties are safe. We therefore regularly survey all our communal and public areas to record, monitor and manage the risk of asbestos fibres being released into the air. If asbestos materials are found during any work to your home, the material will be inspected and if necessary it will be removed and disposed of safely.

## Asbestos in the home.

This document is available in other languages upon request.

### Bengali

বাড়ীতে থাকা অ্যাসবেসটস  
এই ডকুমেন্ট অনুরোধে বাংলায় পাওয়া যায়।

### Kurdish

ئەزبێز لەناو ماڵدا  
ئەم بەلگەیه به پێی داواکاری به زمانی کوردی ش دەس دەکەیت

### Punjabi

ਘਰਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਐਸਬੈਸਟੋਸ  
ਇਹ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਮੰਗ ਕੇ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਵਿਚ ਵੀ ਲਿਆ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ।

### Somali

Asbestos Guriga Gudahiisa  
Dokumentigaan waxaa lagu helaa Soomaali haddii la codsado.

### Urdu

گھر میں ایسبیسٹاس  
درخواست پر یہ دستاویز اردو میں بھی مل سکتی ہے۔

## How to contact us

You can contact us at our office, over the telephone, by e-mail or on our website.

### Telephone:

0121 766 1100  
8am-8pm Monday to Friday  
8am-1pm Saturday

Emergency out of office hours:  
0121 766 1100 (transfer to our out  
of hours service)

### E-mail:

post@family-housing.co.uk

### Post:

Family Housing Association  
(Birmingham) Ltd  
Bordesley House  
44/46 Coventry Road  
Birmingham B10 0RX

### Website:

www.family-housing.co.uk

