



SAFETY BULLETIN

Asbestos Containing Materials

Who needs to read this?

All Curtin University Staff and Students

Background Details

The purpose of this health and Safety Bulletin is to raise awareness amongst Curtin University staff, students and contractors on the management of Asbestos Containing Materials (ACM's) at Curtin University.

What is asbestos?

Asbestos is a group of naturally occurring mineral fibres that, due to unique properties, flexibility, tensile strength, insulation (from heat and electricity) and chemical inertness; were extensively used in many products by various industries including the construction, car manufacturing, textile, aerospace, marine and rail industries. The three most common types of asbestos include chrysotile (white asbestos), amosite (brown asbestos) and crocidolite (blue asbestos). Amosite and crocidolite were used until the mid-1980s whilst Chrysotile was used until 2003.

How do I know if something contains asbestos?

Asbestos presence in materials cannot be determined by visual inspection. The only way to confirm the presence of asbestos is through analysis of samples. Asbestos sampling and identification should only be carried out by suitably qualified and competent persons at an accredited laboratory.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Promoting a safer place to work and study



Curtin University

Typical products and materials that may contain asbestos

Heat Mats



Cable Pit



Gaskets



Gloves



Pipe Insulation



Asbestos Cement Sheet



Rope Seal



Electrical Switchboard



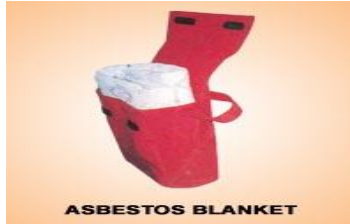
Floor Tiles



Ceiling Tiles



Fire Blankets



Cement Pipe



Toilet Cistern



Eaves



Ceiling





What should I do if I suspect asbestos containing material?

The University's Health and Safety Department hold and maintain the Asbestos Register for the organisation.

If you are planning or undertaking any activities that include digging or drilling that may uncover or expose suspected asbestos containing materials, you must first:

- contact Health and Safety Department on ext. 4900 to determine whether asbestos has been previously located in the area and is listed on the Asbestos Register.

If you suspected that asbestos containing materials/products may be present in your work area, you must:

- stop work,
- secure the area to prevent access by other staff/students/contractors,
- report the hazard to your supervisor, and
- contact the Health and Safety Department on ext. 4900, who will conduct an assessment and arrange for sampling and analysis.

References

http://healthandsafety.curtin.edu.au/hazardous_substances/asbestos.cfm

<http://health.act.gov.au/publications/fact-sheets/asbestos>

<http://www.asbestosdiseases.org.au/index.html>

<http://www.australianasbestosnetwork.org.au/>

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