

Asbestos in the home

What is asbestos?

Asbestos is a natural mineral which is mined out of the ground. In the past, after processing, most asbestos was made into building materials and was used in building work for many years, reaching a peak during the period after 1945. We, along with most other UK local authorities, own many properties with buildings which contain asbestos. All asbestos is potentially very dangerous. However, health risks only happen if asbestos fibres are released when materials containing asbestos are damaged or disturbed.

Where might I find asbestos in my home?

You will find asbestos most commonly in some, but not all, of the following materials:

- Decorative textured coatings and paints applied to walls and ceilings
- Floor tiles
- Heating and ventilation flues and parts of heaters
- Toilet cisterns
- Bath panels
- Old electrical fuse boxes
- Access panels to service ducts
- Screen panels under windows, fascia boards, soffits, roof tiles, rainwater gutters and pipes
- Water storage tanks

Please remember

Building materials in houses which contain asbestos, but which are in good condition, will not be a risk to anyone living in the property and are best left undisturbed rather than being removed. Asbestos which has been painted, covered by other materials or enclosed in ducts, for example, in cupboards, also should not be a risk.

What can I do to help?

If you know there is damaged asbestos in your home or you are planning DIY or maintenance work which could involve working with building material containing asbestos, contact the Customer Contact Centre on **0300 300 0300**. You can arrange an appointment for a technical officer to visit you. We may arrange for a sample of suspected material to be taken for analysis and will give you advice on what action, if any, you need to take.