



Safety Reboot

Asbestos Discussion Aid



This discussion aid has been developed to assist the person facilitating the Safety Reboot discussion on Asbestos. It provides pointers to get conversation going and is not a full explanation of all health and safety requirements related to this subject and should not be relied on as such.

1. What are the main types of asbestos construction workers are likely to come across?
White Asbestos (Chrysotile), Brown Asbestos (Amosite), Blue Asbestos (Crocidolite)
2. What is the main route of exposure?
The main route of exposure of asbestos fibres is through inhalation and to a lesser extent ingestion.
3. How many people die each year as a result of asbestos exposure?
In GB approximately 5000. About 20 tradespeople die each week as a result of past exposure
4. What are some of the health effects that asbestos can cause? –
Inhalation exposure to asbestos has been associated with lung cancer, mesothelioma and pleural disorders such as pleural plaques.
5. Can you see or smell asbestos fibres in the air?
No
6. If you suspect that any surface you are about to work with or drill/cut contains asbestos, what must you do?
STOP work immediately and contact your manager
7. In construction, past uses of asbestos include?
Insulation, Boilers, Plant and pipework, Fire protection to steelwork, Insulation board, Cladding on walls and ceilings, Asbestos cement, Artex, Floor tiles, Door panels
8. When was asbestos banned in the UK? –
Asbestos was only fully banned in the UK construction industry in 1999
9. If you are a tradesman and you're working in a building built before 2000, what must you ask for from the client before works begin?
The asbestos register which will outline locations and types of asbestos in the building.
10. If no asbestos register is available, what must you assume and do? –
All materials in the building are asbestos and request a refurbishment and demolition asbestos survey
11. Whereabouts can you find information with regards to control of exposure to asbestos?
Main source of information is HSE but also speak to your safety team/ asbestos removal contractors etc
12. Who should remove and dispose of asbestos?
Where it is necessary to remove it, this work must be carried out by competent persons.