

Practice Note # 4



This document is intended to provide guidance to workers and the self-employed and is meant to supplement or support the PCBU's own policies on PPE and RPE.

REMEMBER:

- **Asbestos fibre exposure can cause fatal cancers and diseases**
- **You must also be trained to work safely with asbestos**

Essential Information:

Also refer to the following NZDAA guidance sheets:

- **#1 Personal protective equipment (including RPE)**
- **#2 Selection of personal decontamination**
- **#3 What to do if you accidentally discover or disturb asbestos during your work**

Disposal of asbestos waste

What this sheet covers

This sheet describes good practice when you need to dispose of asbestos waste.

Asbestos waste includes

- contaminated building materials
- cleaning equipment, such as rags
- tools that cannot be decontaminated (i.e., electric tools) and will be reused in an asbestos environment
- personal protective equipment
- wastewater from decontamination facilities

Asbestos waste must not be left in a removal area or worksite for extended periods of time and must be removed to an approved landfill as soon as reasonably practical.

Asbestos waste bags

Asbestos waste bags can be used to bag up asbestos material and fragments. The bags should also be new (i.e., not reused). In addition, they should be:

- constructed of heavy-duty plastic of a minimum thickness of 200µm
- be clearly marked with *"Caution asbestos – do not open or damage bag. Do not inhale dust"*

When filling, the asbestos material must be wetted down to suppress dust.

Do not over fill bags as this may cause ripping, tearing or rupture. Remove excess air from the bag before goose neck tying to contain asbestos fibres.

Once taken through the decontamination process, where the waste bag is cleaned of any dust, the bag must be double bagged with a clear bag, and securely sealed to provide additional protection.

Polythene sheeting

Large or long items should be double wrapped in virgin heavy duty polythene plastic of a minimum thickness of 200µm.

If not placing directly into lined bins, each packet must be labelled to indicate the presence of asbestos.

Hazi-bags

Bagged or wrapped asbestos waste can be placed directly into contained and labelled hazi bags, which can be sealed as an alternative to drums or bins. Hazi bags should not be reused.



Drums or bins

Should be placed as close as possible to the removal and decontamination area. Should the bins and drums be reused, they should be lined with heavy-duty plastic of a minimum thickness of 200µm (either sheeting or pre sized and cut bin liners). When the bin or drum is full, the plastic must be wrapped and sealed over the top of the waste.

When filling, the asbestos material must be wetted down to suppress dust.

Before being transported offsite, bins must be inspected for any dust or debris that requires cleaning and suitably covered with a tarp or sheeting.

Waste bins and drums must be inspected after use to make sure there is no asbestos dust or debris. If there is, a trained asbestos worker, wearing asbestos PPE, must clean the bin.



Wastewater

Asbestos wastewater from decontamination facilities must be filtered through a 20µm then 1µm system before being discharged into trade waste. Any other discharge (i.e., domestic wastewater sewerage) may require consent from local council.

Filtered asbestos wastewater can also be reused to suppress dust while loading bins with asbestos waste.



Inspection and decontamination of waste exiting the removal area

Before taking the waste out of the removal area, bags or packages must be inspected by a suitably experienced person for any ruptures, tears or unstuck tape, and any defects repaired before decontamination.

All waste packages and bags must be wet wiped down to remove any dust or debris when removed.

Carrying waste through live areas

In a special set of circumstances, where a waste bin cannot be reasonably located directly adjacent to the removal area, the removalist may need to carry or transport waste through live areas. In this instance:

- Where possible, the load out of waste should occur after hours or at times where there is either no or minimal non-removal persons in the area
- During use, any proposed transit routes must be secured and have appropriate warning signage, to prevent and warn any non-removal personnel from entering.
- Wheelie bins work best as they contain the waste and are easily maneuverable for workers. Wheelie bins should be either of a specific colour or clearly labelled as containing asbestos waste; to not be confused with general rubbish bins.
- Wheelie bin lids must be taped and secure. If this is done, the workers transporting the waste do not need to wear asbestos PPE
- If wheelie bin or other suitable container is not used, the proposed route must be lined with plastic and workers must wear asbestos PPE
- Wheelie bins must be inspected after use to make sure there is no asbestos dust or debris. If there is, a trained asbestos worker, wearing asbestos PPE, must clean the bin.





Transport and disposal of asbestos waste

- While not required under New Zealand transport law, it is good practice for drivers transporting asbestos waste to hold their Dangerous Goods license endorsement, to verify they have displayed knowledge of transporting dangerous goods by road.
- All asbestos waste must be disposed of at a landfill site approved for the purpose under the Resource Management Act 1991
- Drivers of asbestos waste must inspect their loads before leaving the worksite to verify they are happy with the condition and wrapping of the load
- Drivers of asbestos waste must be trained in emergency procedures should they have an asbestos spillage during transport, and have available a set of PPE for this purpose
- Copies of all disposal dockets for asbestos waste must be kept and provided to the principal contractor, LAA, or client at the completion of the job.
- Records of appropriate disposal dockets should be held for 7 years and matched against the removal job the material derived from.



Fly tipping of asbestos waste

Fly tipping or illegal tipping of asbestos waste is a major problem in New Zealand, and its associated clean-up is often costly to ratepayers.

Should you discover illegally tipped asbestos material, you should immediately contact the local council. If notified promptly, there is a chance that the person/s responsible may be identified.

