

**THINK TWICE
ABOUT ASBESTOS**

Across Australia,
asbestos is in
1 in 3 homes.

Know the health
risks of
asbestos exposure

Free Household Testing Kits

A limited number of Household Asbestos testing kits are available to help residents identify asbestos-containing material and assist with safe management or removal.

The free kits are available to residents at your local Council while stocks last (households only, not for commercial/industrial use)

If you miss out, Asbestos testing can be organised through any NATA-accredited laboratory.

Find a NATA-accredited laboratory today
asbestos.nsw.gov.au/asbestos-testing



For more information visit
nirw.org.au/projects/asbestos-management

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NORTHERN INLAND REGIONAL WASTE
waste matters in our region



**Be aware of
where asbestos might be
found before you start work**

Over a third of those who have encountered asbestos admitted to illegal and dangerous disposal - mostly in their own or a neighbour's household bin



Where can you find asbestos in your home?

These locations are examples of where asbestos can be, in homes built before 1990.

Inside the home

- wall and ceiling panels, particularly in wet areas such as the kitchen, bathroom, toilet and laundry
- vinyl floor tiles
- backing for vinyl and linoleum flooring
- backing for wall tiles and splashbacks
- carpet underlay
- insulation in domestic heaters and stoves
- backing of electrical switchboards
- insulation on roof cavities
- hot water piper insulation
- in textured paint and plaster patching compounds

Outside the home

- roof sheeting and ridge capping
- gutters and downpipes
- imitation brick cladding
- lining under eaves
- fences, garden sheds, garages, carports, outdoor toilets and dog kennels
- buried and dumped waste materials.

Asbestos facts

- An estimated 4,000 Australians die annually from asbestos-related diseases. This is more than triple the annual road toll.
- Approximately 700 people die annually from the aggressive cancer mesothelioma which is caused by exposure to asbestos.
- Asbestos was used in over 3,000 products before 1990 - many of these were in residential construction and fit out.

Houses built before 1990 can contain asbestos.



- Asbestos was completely banned in Australia in 2003.
- The World Health Organization says there is no known safe minimum level of exposure to asbestos.
- You cannot see asbestos fibres - they are invisible to the naked eye.

Asbestos in DIY

- 57% of Australians are 'DIYers'. These are people who do, or would, undertake at least part of a renovation or maintenance project by themselves.
- 40% of DIYers have worked on a risky property (built before 1990).
- At least a third of projects started in the last 5 years began during early COVID-19 pandemic restrictions (the four months from March to June 2020).
- Almost no DIYers (only 5%) named asbestos as a high-risk consideration in DIY, without being prompted. This compared to 22% for electrical work.

Asbestos is dangerous if damaged, disturbed or deteriorating. Know the risks and protect yourself during work or renovations.

