

Label the outer one to show that it contains asbestos.

- Wash before meals and before you go home.
- Don't take protective clothing contaminated with asbestos home for washing: your boss should send it to a specialist laundry.

Make sure your workmates understand the dangers. Show them this card.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Your boss should provide you with proper information and training for working with asbestos. Your safety representative, HSE or local authority inspectors will also give further help and advice - look in the phone book under the Environmental Health Department of the local authority or ring HSE's Infoline (Tel: 0845 345 0055).

Further single copies of this pocket card are available from HSE Books Tel: 01787 881165. This pocket card is available in priced packs of 25 from HSE Books ISBN 0 7176 1209 0

This pocket card contains notes on good practice which are not compulsory but which you may find helpful in considering what you need to do.

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ASBESTOS ALERT

**for building maintenance,
repair and refurbishment
workers**

***Be aware of asbestos - the
hidden killer***



ASBESTOS DUST KILLS

Thousands of people die each year in the UK from asbestos-related diseases, because they breathed asbestos dust many years ago. The victims include people who worked in the building trades. There is no cure for these diseases.

If you are a carpenter, joiner, shopfitter, plumber, electrician etc and if you do maintenance, repair or refurbishment work on older buildings, you could be at risk from asbestos dust.

THE DANGER

Thousands of tons of asbestos are still in place in older buildings. The danger to you comes from drilling, cutting, sanding or disturbing materials made from asbestos and breathing in the dust.

YOU WILL FIND ASBESTOS

- as a sprayed insulating coating on steelwork and concrete etc
- as lagging on pipes and boilers etc
- as insulation board in walls, on doors and ceilings
- as asbestos cement for roof and wall coverings, pipes and tanks etc
- in some decorative plasters

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

- Ask whether there has been a check for asbestos where you are working.
- **If there hasn't been a check, treat any insulation or insulating board etc as asbestos.**
- If you are uncertain how to carry on, stop work and seek advice.
- Use the safe work methods and equipment your boss provides.
- Prevent asbestos dust being released or keep it to as low a level as possible. Make sure that it does not spread to affect other people.

SOME GOOD WORK PRACTICES

- Keep asbestos materials (including waste) damp while you are working on them.
- Don't use power tools on asbestos materials; they create dust. Use hand tools instead.
- Use a suitable mask (respirator) when you can't avoid creating dust. Don't breathe it in. You can't see harmful asbestos fibres when they are in the air.
- Clean up asbestos dust as you go with a 'Type H' vacuum cleaner. Don't use brooms or brushes.
- Double bag asbestos waste before it dries in heavy duty polythene bags.