



MERSEYSIDE RECYCLING & WASTE AUTHORITY

## **Guidance notes on disposing of asbestos cement waste**

Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority (MRWA) has arrangements in place to accept asbestos cement waste for disposal, delivered by the householder to a designated Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC).

All Centres are operated by Veoila Environmental Services Ltd under contract to MRWA.

These guidance notes are provided in good faith to help minimise the risk in the removal of small quantities of asbestos cement products and should not be relied upon as providing a safe working system of work. MRWA accept no responsibility for any loss or damage caused.

### **1. Types of waste that may contain asbestos cement**

- Corrugated flat asbestos cement sheets
- Gutters and downspouts
- Bath Panels

This list is by no means exhaustive and you are recommended to seek further or more detailed advice from your Local District Council's Environmental Health Office and/or the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

Asbestos cement consists mainly of cement and is a hard, dense and heavy material and you must take care not to confuse it with lighter, more fragile products such as insulation boards, tiles and lagging materials.

These can be similar in appearance but are much more likely to release fibres into the air when handled and are not suitable for removal by householders.

### **2. Warning – fragile asbestos products**

MRWA advises that fragile asbestos products such as pipe lagging should only be removed and disposed of by suitably licensed specialist contractors.

Please contact your local HSE office for further details. MRWA considers it too dangerous for the householder to handle fragile asbestos products.

If you are in any doubt as to the possible type of asbestos you must contact your Local Environmental Health Office for further advice – see section 5 for contact details.

### **3. How to prepare asbestos cement waste for disposal**

To obtain advice including where to obtain protective overalls, gloves, disposable masks and polythene sheeting/bags, please contact your local Environmental Health Office and/or HSE office.

All efforts should be made to minimise dust release. Cutting or breaking of the material should be avoided and sheets should be wrapped whole wherever possible.

If dust release is anticipated we advise that disposable protective clothing (paper overalls including a hood) and a suitable

disposable face mask (respirator, to a standard P2) approved for use with asbestos are used.

Both items are available from high street hardware and DIY stores and must be disposed of as asbestos cement waste.

- Thoroughly wet the waste
- Avoid breaking up the asbestos waste as much as possible; if possible try and remove fixings, bolts/screw etc. If you have to break the asbestos we advise wrapping it up first.
- Do not sand down or wire brush asbestos cement products.
- Do not use power tools on asbestos cement products.
- Large pieces to be wrapped in heavy-duty polythene sheeting or bags (500 gauge – sometimes called Visquine) and sealed with tape to avoid dust release.
- Smaller pieces to be double-bagged in heavy-duty polythene bags and securely sealed.
- Keep other people and children away.
- Wash well afterwards
- Wash separately or discard any overalls after use. Discarded overalls, masks and gloves should be treated as asbestos waste and bagged accordingly.
- The area where removal has taken place should be thoroughly cleaned, disposing of any cloths used as asbestos waste. On no account should a domestic vacuum cleaner be used in the process.

- Do not mix other household waste with the asbestos waste

When packaging your asbestos products you must be aware that cement bonded products are heavy and multiple items should only be packed together in quantities that can reasonably be lifted to shoulder height by yourself into the asbestos container.

#### **4. Transportation and disposal**

Wrapped asbestos in sheets or bags should be transported in an enclosed van or car boot, NOT in an open trailer where they might fall out and be a risk to others. If a trailer is used this should be covered by tarpaulin.

You must deposit your waste on the date specified on the paperwork provided by MRWA, between 10.00am and 4.00pm at the allocated HWRC.

Upon arrival please report immediately to a member of site staff and present your signed paperwork. The member of staff will then direct you to the specialised asbestos container.

Loading into the specialised container must be supervised by a designated member of site staff, and you must wait for his/her arrival before loading can commence.

Please note - you will be turned away if you do not have all of the correct documentation or if the asbestos cement waste has not been properly wrapped.

## 5. Contact information

Should you have any queries regarding asbestos disposal please contact:

Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority

7<sup>th</sup> Floor, 1 Mann Island

Liverpool L3 1BP

Telephone: 0151 255 1444      Fax: 0151 227 1848

E-mail: [enquiries@merseysidewda.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@merseysidewda.gov.uk)

### Local Council Environmental Health Offices:

Knowsley      Tel: 0151 443 4712

Liverpool      Tel: 0151 233 3001

St Helens      Tel: 01744 676 299

Sefton      Tel: 0151 934 4035

Wirral      Tel: 0151 691 8278

### Other contacts

Environment Agency: Tel: 08708 506 506

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE): Tel: 0845 345 00 55