

DRILLING INTO BONDED MATERIALS CONTAINING ASBESTOS

Caution must be taking when drilling into bonded materials containing asbestos as asbestos fibres can be released into the air. Follow the safety procedures below when drilling vertical and horizontal surfaces:

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Asbestos is a hazardous substance.

It is a risk to your health and the health of those around you if asbestos fibres become airborne.

Plan ahead to avoid disturbing materials containing asbestos.

Always prevent creating any dust.

Follow the correct safety procedures.

STEP 1. Get your equipment together

- A hand drill is preferred, but a low-speed battery-powered drill can be used
- Disposable cleaning rags (eg. paper, cloth)
- Bucket of water and/or a misting spray bottle
- Duct tape
- Sealant eg. PVA glue
- A paste or gel like substance (eg. wallpaper paste, shaving cream or hair gel)
- Two 0.2mm plastic bags for asbestos waste
- A disposable plastic drop sheet to cover the floor under where you are drilling
- A sturdy, disposable cup (eg. plastic, styrofoam) if working overhead
- Personal protective equipment – P1 or P2 respirator, disposable coveralls, safety goggles and disposal gloves

Warning!

Never use a high-speed drill on a material containing asbestos. The high speed of the drill can release asbestos fibres into the air. Only use a hand drill or a low-speed battery powered drill.

STEP 2. Prepare the work area

- Remove all loose and unnecessary items from the work area
- Restrict entry to the asbestos work areas (eg. close door)
- Use plastic sheeting secured with duct tape to cover any surface of the work area and as drop sheets
- Put on your personal protective equipment
- Check the fit of your respirator as per manufacturer's instructions

Warning!

Check for electrical hazards where you are working and particularly where you are drilling or using water. Ideally, turn off electricity in the area you are working to prevent electrocution.

STEP 3. Drilling

To drill vertical surfaces (eg. a wall):	To drill overhead horizontal surfaces (eg. a ceiling):
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Tape the point to be drilled and the exit point (if possible).2. Cover the drill entry and exit points (if accessible) on the asbestos sheet with a generous amount of thickened substance.3. Drill through the paste.4. If a cable is to be passed through, insert a sleeve to protect the inner edge of the hole.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Mark the point to be drilled.2. Cover the drill entry and exit points (if accessible) on the asbestos sheet with a generous amount of thickened substance.3. Drill a hole through the bottom of the disposable cup.4. Fill or line the inside of the cup with the thickened substance.5. Put the drill bit through the hole in the cup and make sure the drill bit extends beyond the lip of the cup.6. Align the drill bit with the marked point.7. Ensure cup is firmly held against the surface to be drilled.8. Drill through the surface.9. Remove the cup from the surface.10. If a cable is to be passed through, insert a sleeve to protect the inner edge of the hole.

STEP 4. Clean up

Important!

Keep your respirator on until all clean up is finished and you have removed your work clothing

- Use damp rags to clean off the paste and debris from the wall and drill bit
- Seal the cut edges with sealant
- Carefully roll or fold plastic sheeting from the floor, so any collected dust or debris does not spill

Warning!

Domestic vacuum cleaners are unsuitable and should never be used, even if they have a HEPA filter.

- If necessary, use damp rags and/or an approved asbestos vacuum cleaner to clean any remaining visibly contaminated sections of the work area. **Do not** resoak used rags in the bucket, as this will contaminate the water. Either fold the rag and use the clean surface or use a new rag.
- Place asbestos debris, used rags, plastic sheeting and other asbestos waste in disposal bags (only half fill the bag – this is to reduce the chance of the bag splitting)
- After the work area is clean, wet down your personal protective equipment and clothing with a light spray of water and place them and all used damp cloths into a disposable bag
- Before removing the bags from the work area, wipe external surfaces with damp rags to remove any dust and put the used rags in one of the bags
- Seal all disposal bags with duct tape, place into a second disposal bag and seal again

- Label all bags with an appropriate warning such as:

CAUTION – ASBESTOS
DO NOT DAMAGE OR OPEN BAG
DO NOT INHALE DUST
CANCER AND LUNG DISEASE HAZARD

- Dispose of asbestos waste at the appropriate waste facility (contact your local Council for more information).