

A guide to asbestos

Asbestos is the name given to a group of minerals that are found naturally in many parts of the world. It is mined and processed into small fibres, which are strong, flexible and resistant to both fire and chemicals. For these reasons it has been used in a wide range of building materials and products.

In 1999, the use of asbestos to make these products was banned, but it can still be found in many building materials used from 1930 to around 1980, particularly from the 1960s onwards. Houses and flats built or improved during this time may contain asbestos materials.

Asbestos containing materials pose little risk unless they are damaged in such a way that allows the fibres to be released into the atmosphere. This can occur if the material is in poor condition or is damaged in some way. These fibres may cause health problems.

As asbestos has been used widely and is a natural substance, there are very low levels of fibres in the air everywhere. This is unlikely to harm your health.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) strongly encourages the use of trained professionals to repair or remove asbestos containing materials.

The majority of our properties have been built before 1999 and, as such, building materials and other products containing asbestos may have been used. The risk that asbestos found in the home will be harmful is low. But if you accidentally damage asbestos materials, you should get advice on what action to take.

If you choose to carry out DIY repairs or remove damaged asbestos materials yourself, make sure you wear the right protective equipment and follow safe working methods. Advice on doing this can be found on the HSE website www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/essentials.

It is possible to damage asbestos containing materials when doing DIY work. So, be very careful and avoid disturbing materials that might contain asbestos. If you are planning to carry out any DIY home improvements within your home, or employing your own contractor to carry out work, it is essential that you know, and share, the location of any asbestos first.

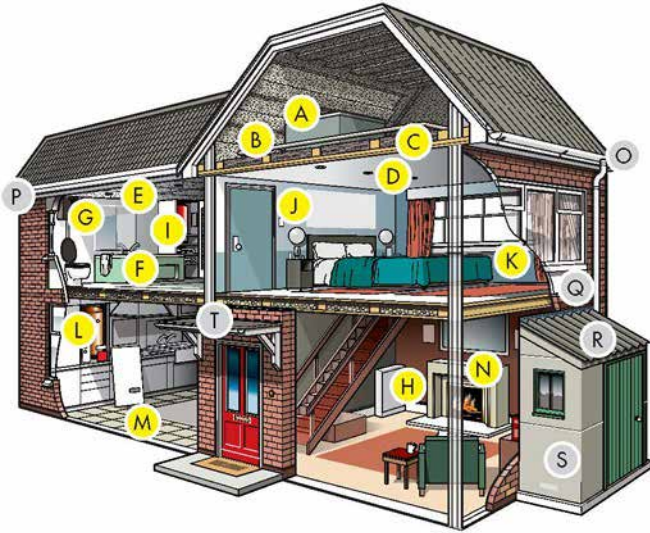
Asbestos materials that are in good condition are usually best left where they are. Removing them can lead to fibres being released into the air. Check the condition of asbestos materials from time to time and make sure they have not become damaged or have started to break up.

This is why it is essential that you request permission from Berneslai Homes before carrying out work on your home.

The asbestos register for your home can be requested, either by sending an email to asbestos@berneslaihomes.co.uk or by getting in touch with your Housing Management Officer (HMO). For details of how to contact your Housing Management Officer, please ring **01226 775555** or visit our website at www.berneslaihomes.co.uk.

The illustration below shows some of the places where asbestos can be found in a home. This list is not exhaustive and there may be other areas where it could be located.

ASBESTOS WHERE IT HIDES



This Factsheet contains public sector information published by the Health and Safety Executive and licensed under the Open Government Licence.

Interior

- A. Water tank
- B. Pipe lagging
- C. Loose fill insulation
- D. Textured decorative coatings (Artex)
- E. Ceiling tiles
- F. Bath panel
- G. Toilet seat and cistern
- H. Panel behind fuse box
- I. Panels within airing cupboard
- J. Partition walls
- K. Interior window panels
- L. Boxing around boiler
- M. Vinyl floor tiles
- N. Panels behind fire

Exterior

- O. Gutters and downpipes
- P. Soffits and fascias
- Q. Exterior window panels
- R. Roof sheets
- S. Wall panels
- T. Roofing felt

Did you know you can access our services online by visiting us at
www.berneslaihomes.co.uk

For all general enquiries please phone **01226 775555**
(Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm and Saturday 8am to 1pm)

Or for repairs phone **01226 787878** (24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

You can download the Berneslai Homes app for FREE!



iPhone



Android

Creating great homes and communities for the people of Barnsley

