



# ASBESTOS IS DANGEROUS

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*Asbestos fibers are hazardous to our health and can cause a variety of serious diseases including cancer and asbestosis. The most common form of cancer is mesothelioma and kills in excess of 100 people each year in Sweden.*

**Asbestos** is a safe material providing it is rigidly installed or encapsulated. It is only once it is broken apart that it becomes dangerous. When it is sawn, drilled, filed or during demolition the microscopic, needle-shaped (acicular) fibers, are released and are absorbed into our bodies whether it be through breathing or whilst eating. The fibers are in fact so light that they can remain airborne for several days. Even washing and cleaning processes such as the use of high-pressure water jets, compressed air, sandblasting, scraping, sweeping and the general cleaning of ventilation channels can release fibers in quantities to be deemed harmful.

**Asbestos in the home?** Despite the fact that asbestos has been a prohibited material in new products for many years, there still remains much of it around us. It had previously been widely used in the building industry and was a popular material for exterior walls and roofing, even as insulation in some older properties.

The first ban came in 1976 for a particularly harmful form of asbestos called Crocidolite, even known as blue-asbestos. A complete ban on all forms of asbestos came in 1982 although it is unfortunately still found today in properties built before 1977.

**Can I remove asbestos myself?** Private individuals are permitted to handle materials containing asbestos from their own privately owned properties. If the material is found indoors or is of a loose nature then it is strongly advised that assistance from qualified tradesmen is sought. If you intend on handling asbestos yourself, think protection! Always use respiratory protection, a disposable full-body overall including a hood and tightfitting disposable gloves.

Asbestos particles are very small. If a vacuum cleaner is used the particles will remain even after the bag is changed. Next time the vacuum is used it will be spread again. Similarly, the fibers remain on clothes even after washing, and in fact can even be spread to other clothes via the machine. After handling asbestos, always change clothes and wash thoroughly before eating. Protective clothing should be stored outdoors at all times.

After completion of work involving asbestos, the clothing should always be sealed with tape inside two plastic bags and deposited together with the asbestos waste.

**Dispose of waste?** Asbestos is a hazardous substance and should always be sealed within two plastic bags using tape. At our recycling center Övreskog you are permitted to deposit 5 kg per visit. This rule applies specifically to private individuals. Only registered companies are permitted to handle asbestos.

**Important!** All asbestos waste must be sealed with tape inside two plastic bags of enough quality and sufficiently well so that any damage to the plastic bags will not result in asbestos fibers leaking out. This is necessary to protect not only yourselves but also our personnel. It is forbidden to have any exposed material, crush or saw asbestos at Övreskog recycling center.

### *Asbestos can be found in these places around the home:*

- Pipe insulation.
- Boilers, tiled stoves, chimney flues.
- Ventilation systems and ducting.
- Asbestos tiling on roofs, exterior walls, balconies, internally in walls, household waste rooms and even behind electrical cabinets.
- Window sills and fittings around such.
- Window putty.
- Gas ovens, heat protection tile surrounds.
- Plastic flooring and tiling.
- Tile adhesive and grout.
- Floor fixings and even carpet adhesives.



**! Hazardous waste**

