

# Asbestos and Your Home

## Fact Sheet



In NSW, there has been increased community awareness around asbestos.

The following information has been published by HOMES NSW.

### What is asbestos?

- Asbestos is a mineral fibre that was often mixed with cement to make building materials such as fibro sheeting.
- New South Wales started to phase out the use of the material in the 1980s and in 2003 it was banned from use.
- You cannot tell if a material contains asbestos by looking at it.
- Only specialised testing can confirm the presence of asbestos.
- Asbestos may become a hazard when it's damaged or disturbed, for example by cutting or drilling into the material.
- Damaging the asbestos can release small fibres into the air.
- When it's sealed, undisturbed and in good condition, asbestos-containing material is low risk.

### Is there asbestos in my home?

- It is common for asbestos materials to be present in homes built across NSW before 1988.
- It may be found in internal and external wall cladding, eaves, garages or sheds, behind bathroom tiles, under linoleum flooring or behind electrical switch boards.

The age of your home, can be a factor in deciding if asbestos may be present in building materials.

### Tips for living safely with asbestos

- If asbestos material is in good condition and left undisturbed, there is a low risk to your health.
- Ask for permission from Hume before altering your home. Even a minor alteration such as drilling a hole in the wall to hang a picture.
- To submit a request and get approval call 1800 004 300.
- All requests will be managed according to our Alterations Policy.
- Don't touch any material that is worn, damaged or detached and suspected of containing asbestos.

### CONTACT US

If you think damaged material at your home may contain asbestos or you find pieces of suspected asbestos material in your garden call us on 1800 004 300 immediately. We will then take the necessary steps to make the area safe.

If you have been exposed to asbestos dust contact your doctor.

*\*Information published by Homes NSW to increase awareness of asbestos among the community.*

## Hume Housing Fact Sheet: Asbestos

### Translation Service

If you need an interpreter to assist with this document, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) for free on **131 450**. Ask them to call Hume Community Housing on **1800 004 300**.

#### Assyrian

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#### Arabic

إذا كنت بحاجة إلى مترجم فوري للمساعدة في فهم هذا المستند، فيُرجى الاتصال بخدمة الترجمة التحرييرية والفورية (TIS National) مجانًا على 131 450. اطلب منهم الاتصال بـ Community Housing Hume على 1800 004 300.

#### Chinese

如果您需要口译员帮助您阅读此文档，请拨打免费电话131 450，以联系口笔译服务机构 (TIS National)。接通后，请翻译员拨打1800004 300，以联系 Hume Community Housing。

#### Spanish

Si necesita los servicios de un intérprete para este documento, llame gratis al Servicio de Traducción e Interpretación (TIS National) en el número 131 450. Pídales que llamen a Hume Community Housing en el número 1800 004 300.

#### Vietnamese

Nếu bạn cần thông dịch viên để hỗ trợ tài liệu này, thì vui lòng gọi cho Dịch vụ Biên dịch và Phiên dịch (TIS National) miễn phí theo số 131 450. Yêu cầu họ gọi cho Công ty Nhà ở Cộng đồng Hume (Hume Community Housing) theo số 1800 004 300.