

Tips
Asbestos

Asbestos is a hidden killer and may be found in any building built prior to 1990



Asbestos

If you suspect asbestos is present, STOP work. Secure the work area and inform your Site Manager immediately.

When undertaking any work in pre-1990 buildings, ensure the Head Contractor has had an asbestos inspection carried out.

Where asbestos may be hidden:

- cement cladding and roofing
- backing material for floor tiles; vinyl sheets, switchboards and power switches
- insulation board for thermal protection – often used around a fire place
- ceiling tiles; textured coated ceilings and sprayed on wall surfaces
- lagging used to insulate pipes, heaters and water cylinders
- spouting air-conditioning ducts.

If in doubt, treat the work site as if it is contaminated until the area has been tested by a qualified person and the result of testing known.

Visit www.nzocl.org.nz/members.htm for further information.

The removal of any asbestos requires the following:

- a qualified and approved removal person on site full time during removal
- a permit from WorkSafe NZ before any work can start
- specialist clothing and respiratory protective equipment
- in some case, monitoring of airborne particles
- specialised disposal of asbestos containing material.