

**Domestic Asbestos Waste**

**How to dispose of domestic asbestos waste**

**Why may asbestos be a problem?**

When asbestos materials age or become damaged they can release fibres into the air. When these are breathed in, they can stay in the lung for a long time and can cause lung diseases, including cancer. This is why asbestos has been classified as a Special Waste and is subject to specific disposal procedures. This document explains the arrangements required to dispose of domestic asbestos in the Highland Council area.

(For Health and Safety advice, please refer to the “Asbestos in the Home” leaflet which is available from The Highland Council’s website [www.highland.gov.uk/recycle](http://www.highland.gov.uk/recycle) or by calling 01349 886603

**Where can it be found?**

Asbestos can be found in many places around houses, especially those built in the 1960s and 1970s. It was used for insulation boards, lagging pipes, inside storage heaters and corrugated roofing. The Highland Council’s Environmental Health team can provide advice on identifying asbestos sources in the home.

(Please also see Health and Safety advice from the Scottish Government on the last page of this document.)

**Remember: If in doubt, ask for advice**

You may wish to arrange for a suitable contractor to take a sample of the material to establish if it is asbestos.

**What to do – Seven steps to follow**

1. **Check that your waste can be accepted**

Highland Council has made provision for the disposal of small amounts of bonded asbestos from small domestic DIY activities at selected Household Waste Recycling Centres and Waste Transfer Stations across the region. You should discuss your proposals with your local Waste Management Officer. Please note the council reserves the right to limit the size and/or number of any load(s) of bonded asbestos. Sheets larger than 6ft x 3ft are not accepted. Please call 01349 886603 before you start any works and an enquiry will be forwarded to the Waste Management Officer for your area. The Waste Management Officer will contact you to discuss if the disposal of your asbestos is suitable and will arrange a date and time for disposal of the waste.

1. **Remove it Safely**

Householders should only tackle minor work, and observe all precautions and requirements set out in this leaflet. For more extensive work, call upon the services of a specialised licensed contractor.

1. **Handle it Safely**

Always wear protective clothing when handling asbestos. Work outside if possible and use hand tools rather than power tools. In some cases it might be safer not to remove it – Environmental Health staff can advise. Phone 01349 886603 and an enquiry will be raised for the Environmental Health team who can give you further advice.

1. **Keep it Secure**

Keep asbestos waste, or even suspected asbestos waste, safe from interference (e.g. children should be kept away from it). Keep it wet to avoid producing dust.

1. **Wrap it up**

All asbestos waste should be double wrapped. Use thick plastic bags that are strong enough so that it does not tear when used, or other containers (e.g. a drum). Put the asbestos in a bag and seal it, then put it all into a second bag or container and seal that. Label the outside “**DANGER: ASBESTOS**”.

**DO NOT BREAK UP ASBESTOS**

1. **Fill in the paperwork**

Pre-notification forms must be obtained from the Highland Council via the Highland Council website [www.highland.gov.uk/recycle](http://www.highland.gov.uk/recycle) or by calling 01349 886603

**PLEASE NOTE – ONLY ASBESTOS THAT HAS BEEN REMOVED BY THE HOUSEHOLDER (AND NOT A CONTRACTOR OR OTHER PERSON) IS CLASSED AS DOMESTIC ASBESTOS.**

**IF A CONTRACTOR OR OTHER PERSON DOES THE WORK, THE WASTE CANNOT BE ACCEPTED AT THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL’S HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES/WASTE TRANSFER STATIONS**

1. **Deliver it to the site.**

Take your asbestos to the Household Waste Recycling Centre or Waste Transfer Station on the date and time pre-arranged with the Waste Management Officer.

**Contractors are not permitted to use the facilities (See note 6 above).**

**Disposal Advice - Highland Council Communities and Place**

**Household Waste Recycling Centres/Waste Transfer Stations**

The sites listed below are licensed to accept Domestic Bonded Asbestos.

Actual amounts that can be disposed of at each site are limited by operational constraints and Waste Management Licence controls. You should discuss your proposals with your local Waste Management Officer.

* Tongue Waste Transfer Station
* Brora Household Waste Recycling Centre
* Dingwall Household Waste Recycling Centre
* Fort William Household Waste Recycling Centre
* Gairloch Household Waste Recycling Centre
* Aviemore Household Waste Recycling Centre
* Inverness Household Waste Recycling Centre
* Nairn Household Waste Recycling Centre
* Portree Household Waste Recycling Centre
* Seater Landfill Site, Bower
* Tain Household Waste Recycling Centre
* Lochinver Household Waste Recycling Centre
* Ullapool Household Waste Recycling Centre

**Health & Safety Advice**

Visit <http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/faq.htm>