



What is asbestos?

Asbestos is the name given to a group of fibrous minerals which have been used in a range of building products because of their specific heat and sound insulating capabilities.

However, homes built since the late 1980s are unlikely to contain asbestos based materials as it is now illegal to supply or use any form of asbestos or asbestos containing materials.

Many people worry about asbestos but undisturbed asbestos usually poses no problems. However, care should be taken to prevent the release of fibres as they could damage your health if they are released into the air.

Where is asbestos found?

Asbestos may be found in thermoplastic floor tiles, asbestos cement products such as garage roofs, roofing soffits, some insulating boards and textured coatings such as artex.

How do we deal with asbestos?

We work strictly to health and safety requirements to ensure the safety of all residents by carrying out professional property surveys to identify where asbestos-containing materials are present. However, many homes do not have building materials containing asbestos.

If asbestos is found to be present, special contractors will make sure that it is safe and poses no threat to residents, staff or contractors. Information on all homes is kept and is referred to whenever any building or repair work is planned for your home.

What should I do if I suspect there is asbestos in my home?

Contact us and explain your reason for concern. We will be able to tell you if we are aware of the presence of asbestos in your home. Please remember asbestos-containing materials that are in good condition, undisturbed and cannot readily be damaged shouldn't present a hazard.

In some instances asbestos-containing materials are best left where they are if they pose no risk because removal may lead to the possibility of fibres being released into the air.

You should take extra care when you are carrying out any DIY work to your home if asbestos is present.

What if I want to carry out some home DIY work, what should I do?

As mentioned above, asbestos MAY be found in thermoplastic floor tiles, cement based products such as garage roofs, roof soffits, insulating boards and textured wall or ceiling coatings.

If your DIY work involves disturbing any of these types of areas, please contact your local housing office and ask to speak to an officer for advice on potential asbestos in your home. We will be glad to help you and carry out tests of the material involved if necessary.

Contacts

For more information contact us free from a landline on **08000 461 600** or ring us on **01642 233 780** to be charged at local rate from a mobile phone.

Alternatively, you can log on to www.irimushousing.co.uk