

# Asbestos and your home

You may have noticed increased community awareness about asbestos.  
Here's what you need to know about asbestos and your home.

## Is there asbestos in my home?



It's 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.

**If asbestos material is in good condition and left undisturbed, there is a low risk to your health.**

## Tips for living safely with asbestos



**Seek permission** from your tenancy team before altering your home, even a minor alteration such as drilling a hole in the wall to hang a picture. To speak with your tenancy team about how to submit a request and obtain approval, call **1800 422 322** and press 2 for Housing Services.



**Don't touch** any material that is worn, damaged or detached and suspected of containing asbestos. Ensure you report it to the Maintenance Line on **1800 422 322**.



If you think you've **damaged materials** in your home that may contain asbestos or find pieces of suspected asbestos material in your garden or yard, call the Maintenance Line immediately on **1800 422 322**. Homes NSW will ensure a contractor visits your home to make sure the area is safe. If you have been exposed to asbestos dust, contact your doctor.

## 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 can't 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.



### More information

To watch our video on living safely with asbestos, visit [www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/land-and-housing-corporation/maintenance/videos-to-help-maintain-and-protect-your-home](http://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/land-and-housing-corporation/maintenance/videos-to-help-maintain-and-protect-your-home) or scan the QR code.