

## REMEMBER ...

- Avoid creating asbestos dust
- Avoid breathing in asbestos dust
- Asbestos material in good condition should be left alone
- If you think you have products containing asbestos in your home, 'SEEK ADVICE' before you take any action.



### Finding your Local CSC Office

**Armadale CSC**  
1/3 East Main Street,  
Armadale EH48 2QA

**Bathgate CSC**  
Lindsay House, Bathgate EH48 1TS

**Blackburn CSC**  
The Mill Centre, 10 Sycamore Walk  
Blackburn EH47 7LQ

**Broxburn CSC**  
Strathbrock Partnership Centre  
189a West Main Street,  
Broxburn EH52 5LH

**Fauldhouse CSC**  
10 Main Street, Fauldhouse EH47 9HX

**Linlithgow CSC**  
County Buildings,  
Linlithgow EH49 7EZ

**Livingston CSC**  
The Ability Centre, Carmondean  
Livingston EH54 8PT

**West Calder CSC**  
24-26 Main Street, West Calder  
EH55 8DR

**Whitburn CSC**  
5 East Main Street, Whitburn EH47 0RA

**West Lothian Connected CSC**  
Almondvale Centre, Livingston  
EH54 6SN

**Advice Shop** 9/12 Waverley Industrial Estate, Waverley Street, Bathgate  
or phone 01506 776444.

### Customers with Special Requirements

Information is available in Braille, on tape, in large print and in community languages.  
Please contact the interpretation and translation service on 0131 242 8181

هذه المعلومات متوفرة بلغة بريل وعلى شريط وبخط كبير وبلغات الجالية.  
الرجاء الإتصال بخدمة الترجمة على الهاتف 0131 242 8181

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براہ مہربانی انٹرنیٹ پر اینڈ ٹرانسلیٹنگ سروس سے ٹیلیفون نمبر 0131 242 8181 پر رابطہ قائم کریں۔

Published by West Lothian Council, West Lothian House, Livingston, EH54 6QG

Text phones offer the opportunity for people with a hearing impairment to access the council.

**The Text Phone number is 18001 01506 464427**

A loop system is also available in all offices.

[www.westlothian.gov.uk/housing](http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/housing)

**Housing & Customer Services (01506) 775000**

**E-mail: [customer.service@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:customer.service@westlothian.gov.uk)**

Local Service Delivery  
Repairs  
Tenant Participation  
Registration Services  
Council Information Services



Housing & Customer Services  
**YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED**

## ASBESTOS



**WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL DELIVERS SERVICES FOR THE COMMUNITY**

[www.westlothian.gov.uk](http://www.westlothian.gov.uk)



## What is Asbestos?

Asbestos fibres are strong and resistant to heat and chemicals, this has led to their use in a wide range of building materials and products, often as fireproofing.

## Where is asbestos found?

Building materials containing asbestos were widely used from 1930 to around 1980, particularly from 1960 onwards. Houses of flats built or refurbished around this time may contain asbestos materials. Heat resistant household items such as oven gloves and ironing boards also used to contain asbestos.

It is not always easy to tell whether a product contains asbestos, as modern asbestos-free materials often look very similar – remember – it is usually older products that contain asbestos.

The main building materials containing asbestos are given below:

### Insulation Board –

This has been used for fire protection, heat and sound insulation.

### Lagging –

This has been used for the thermal insulation of pipes and boilers (This is very rarely found in homes).

### Sprayed Coating –

This was used for fire protection of structural steel.

### Cement Products –

This is the most commonly used asbestos material. It is found in different types of buildings as roofing sheets, wall cladding, partition boards, bath surrounds, roofing tiles and slates.

## Why might asbestos be a problem?

When asbestos materials age or become damaged they can release fibres into the air. These can be breathed into the lungs, and where there are very high levels of these fibres, lung diseases can be a risk.

## How can I identify products or materials containing asbestos?

Since 1976 British manufacturers have put labels on their products to show that they contain asbestos and European countries followed this example in 1986.

*However, these labels may not always be visible.*

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

- Any asbestos materials that are in good condition and that cannot easily be damaged are best left where they are as their removal can lead to higher levels of fibres in the air. It is a good idea to check the condition of these materials from time to time to make sure that they have not become damaged or have started to deteriorate.
- If you are a council tenant, contact your Local Office to arrange an inspection.
- Sealing and enclosing the material may repair materials that are slightly damaged; it is not Government policy to automatically remove all materials containing asbestos.
- Any asbestos materials that are badly damaged or deteriorating can release dust and should be removed. Some materials (sprayed asbestos, lagging or insulating boards) must always be removed by contractors with a special license issued by the Government, this ensures that the regulations for the safe removal of asbestos are correctly followed.

## Take Care when doing DIY!

If you have asbestos materials in your home, you must always take extra care when doing any DIY. The following precautions should always be taken:

- **NEVER** attempt work with sprayed asbestos, lagging or insulating boards – this must be undertaken by a specialist contractor.
- Do not drill, cut or disturb asbestos unless absolutely necessary.
- Do not scrape or sand asbestos material before painting or decorating. Some types of asbestos material are soft and can release large numbers of fibres if rubbed or scraped.

## If I need to dispose of any materials containing asbestos, how should I go about it?

- Dampen small amounts of asbestos waste and put it in a strong plastic bag – seal this very tightly and clearly mark it **'ASBESTOS'** and put it in a second clear bag.
- Do not break up large asbestos cement sheets – they do not need to be sealed in bags but should be double wrapped on polythene or similar sheeting and disposed of as asbestos waste.
- Do not put asbestos waste in the bin – a specialist should remove this. Owner/occupiers should contact a private contractor to do this and West Lothian tenants should contact Housing & Customer Services on 01506 775000 for advice and assistance.