

ASBESTOS

SOUTHERN CROSS HOUSING FACT SHEET



Asbestos can be a health risk, this fact sheet will provide details on what you should do if you find any Asbestos in your home.

WHAT IS ASBESTOS?

Asbestos is a mineral fibre. In the past, asbestos was mixed with cement to make it stronger and easier to mould into different shapes and sizes, such as fibro sheeting. Asbestos was also popular because of its fire resistance and insulation qualities.

HOW DO I KNOW IF IT'S ASBESTOS?

1 in 3 houses in NSW constructed or renovated between 1945 and 1990 are estimated to contain asbestos. You can't tell if a material contains asbestos just by looking at it. Identifying asbestos requires testing by a licensed asbestos lab. However, if in doubt, follow the golden rule – "if you think it might be asbestos, treat it like it is."

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I THINK MY HOME CONTAINS ASBESTOS?

Finding that your home is made from asbestos products does not mean your health is at risk. Studies have shown that these products, if in sound condition and left undisturbed, are not a risk. If your house isn't damaged, you do not need to do anything.

If the asbestos is damaged or disturbed for example by breaking, cutting, drilling or sanding, fibres are released into the air, and it becomes a potential health risk.

Any damage to a part of the home that might contain asbestos should be reported to the Maintenance Team at Southern Cross Housing on 1300 757 885.

COMMON PLACES ASBESTOS MAY BE FOUND IN THE HOME

Asbestos Fibro was widely used on external walls, both cladding and sheeting, as well as eaves, carports and garages. Asbestos can also be found in electrical switchboards. However wet areas, such as the Bathroom, Laundry and Shower, are the most common places to find asbestos-containing products inside the home.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I OR SOMEONE ELSE HAS ACCIDENTALLY CREATED A HOLE IN SOME FIBRO SHEETING?

Make sure everyone stays clear of the area and contact our Maintenance Team on 1300 757 885.

If material contains asbestos, Southern Cross Housing will ensure it is either rendered safe or removed. The residential tenancy agreement signed by you at the beginning of your tenancy states that you are not to alter your home in any way without the permission of Southern Cross Housing or the owner. This includes cutting into walls, drilling holes, making repairs and other alterations.

IF I FIND CEMENT SHEETING LYING ON THE GROUND OR UNDER MY HOUSE, WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Don't touch it. Report it to the Maintenance Team on 1300 757 885.

