

# a28

## asbestos essentials

### Non-licensed tasks

#### Essential information

**Important:** You must read sheet **a0 Introduction to asbestos essentials**

Also read the following sheets:

**em0** Risk assessments and plans of work

**em1** What to do if you discover or accidentally disturb asbestos during your work

**em2** Information, instruction and training

**em4** Using a Class H vacuum cleaner for asbestos

**em6** Personal protective equipment (including RPE)

**em7** Using damp rags to clean surfaces of minor asbestos contamination

**em8** Personal decontamination

**em9** Disposal of asbestos waste

# Removing textured coating from a small area, for example 1 m<sup>2</sup>

### What this sheet covers

This sheet describes good practice when you need to remove a small area of textured coating, eg around 1 m<sup>2</sup>, in preparation for other maintenance work.

If steaming or gelling methods are used other than in preparation for maintenance such as fitting smoke alarms or light fittings then the work will be notifiable non-licensed work (NNLW) – see sheet **a0 Introduction to asbestos essentials**.

This sheet is *not* appropriate for large areas. The work is still non-licensed but you need to make a full risk assessment and the work will be NNLW – see sheet **a0 Introduction to asbestos essentials**.

If the coating covers asbestos insulating board, use an HSE-licensed contractor.

### Preparing the work area

- Do you need to isolate any services?
- Restrict access – minimise the number of people present.
- Close doors. Use tape and notices to warn others.
- Ensure adequate lighting.

### Equipment

- 500-gauge polythene sheeting and duct tape
- Warning tape and notices
- Class H vacuum cleaner (BS 8520) (If available – see sheet em4)
- Penetrating stripping fluid or gel, or a steam generator
- Permanent sealant
- Plastic dustpan
- Scraper
- Paint brush
- Bucket of water and rags
- Asbestos waste bag
- Clear polythene bag

**Caution**

Never scrape through or sand down textured coatings or stripped surfaces. Don't use power tools to cut through textured coatings.

**Other hazards**

Work at height – see [www.hse.gov.uk/work-at-height](http://www.hse.gov.uk/work-at-height). Take precautions to avoid falls.

Slips and trips – see [www.hse.gov.uk/slips](http://www.hse.gov.uk/slips). Floors protected with polythene become very slippery when wet.

There may be other hazards – you need to consider them all.

**Personal protective equipment (PPE) – see sheet em6**

- Provide:
  - disposable overalls fitted with a hood;
  - boots without laces (laced boots are hard to decontaminate);
  - respiratory protective equipment (RPE).

**Procedure**

- Remove furniture and fittings from the area, or protect them from contamination using 500-gauge polythene sheet.
- Protect nearby surfaces from contamination. Cover with 500-gauge polythene sheeting and fix with duct tape to non-asbestos surfaces.

**Removal**

- Dampen and pick off any loose pieces of coating and put them in the asbestos waste bag.
- Either gently brush on penetrating fluid, or dampen and loosen the coating with steam.
- When loose, gently scrape the coating into the dustpan.
- Empty this into the waste bag.
- Seal the stripped surface with sealant.



Gently brush on penetrating fluid, or dampen and loosen the coating with steam



Gently scrape the coating into the dustpan

**Cleaning and disposal**

- Clean the area and equipment with a Class H vacuum cleaner (if available) and/or damp rags.
- Put debris, used rags, paint brush, polythene sheeting and other waste in the asbestos waste bag and tape it closed.
- Put the asbestos waste bag in a clear polythene bag and tape it closed.
- Disposal – see sheet em9.

## Personal decontamination

See sheet em8.

## Clearance and checking off

- Visually inspect the area to make sure that it has been cleaned properly.
- Clearance air sampling is not normally required.
- Get the premises owner, dutyholder or client to check off the job.

---

For information about health and safety, or to report inconsistencies or inaccuracies in this guidance, visit [www.hse.gov.uk/](http://www.hse.gov.uk/). You can view HSE guidance online and order priced publications from the website. HSE priced publications are also available from bookshops.

This guidance is issued by the Health and Safety Executive. Following the guidance is not compulsory, unless specifically stated, and you are free to take other action. But if you do follow the guidance you will normally be doing enough to comply with the law. Health and safety inspectors seek to secure compliance with the law and may refer to this guidance.

This document is available at: [www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/essentials/](http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/essentials/)

© *Crown copyright* If you wish to reuse this information visit [www.hse.gov.uk/copyright.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/copyright.htm) for details. First published as part of *Asbestos essentials task manual* 2001.