

### What do I do if I have a problem?

If you are worried about any damaged asbestos material, don't try to deal with it yourself. Contact us on 01476 40 60 80

### Where can I get more information?

Housing Development and Improvement  
South Kesteven District Council  
St Peter's Hill, Grantham,  
Lincolnshire, NG31 6PZ

improvements@southkesteven.gov.uk

### Useful websites:

[www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos](http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos)  
(the Health and Safety Executive)  
[www.aic.org.uk](http://www.aic.org.uk) (The Asbestos  
Information Centre)

This document is available in large print, braille, audio tape, electronic formats such as CD, and in different languages.

Our website is Readspeak enabled. For a copy of the leaflet please contact Housing Development and Improvement on: 01476 40 60 80

# ASBESTOS

## IN OR OUTSIDE YOUR HOME



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This leaflet is all about asbestos - what it is, where it may be found in your home and how to ensure that you and your family are not at risk.

### What is asbestos?

Asbestos is a general name given to a group of natural minerals which are mined all over the world. There are three types of asbestos: blue asbestos (crocidolite), brown asbestos (amosite) and white asbestos (chrysotile).

Asbestos is very strong, flexible, stable and resistant to corrosive chemicals. Because of these properties, it was used widely in the manufacture of building materials between the 1950s and the mid-1980s and most extensively in the 1960s and 1970s. If your home was built during these periods, the chances are some Asbestos Containing Materials (ACMs) will exist.

In domestic situations, such as in your home asbestos was used to give certain building materials strength and heat resistance.

### Where might you find asbestos used in and outside your home?

The following is a list of some of the domestic uses of ACMs:

- Air-bricks
- Bath panels
- Boilers and pipework
- Cold water tanks
- Corrugated cement sheeting - sheds and garages
- Decorative coatings e.g. artexing

- Fire surrounds
- Flooring materials - vinyl/thermoplastic floor tiles; paper backing
- Flue pipes
- Rainwater and guttering downpipes
- Roofs and exterior walls
- Soffit boards
- Soil pipes
- Sprayed coating on steel-framed buildings
- Wall boarding - internal partitions, airing cupboard linings, duct and pipe covers

### What are the health risks?

Any ACM that is undamaged will not present a health risk, but when asbestos materials become damaged, are drilled, sawn, scrubbed or sanded, the risk can be increased.

When ACM become damaged, asbestos fibres can be released into the air.

These fibres can penetrate deep into the lungs where they may stay for a long time. They can cause cancer, asbestosis or a thickening of the lungs. The greater the exposure, the greater the risk, but there is no safe exposure level.

### What is South Kesteven District Council doing about asbestos in the home?

We have surveyed all of our properties to establish the presence and locations of asbestos within the housing stock we own.

The information collected during the surveys is held on an Asbestos Register. The details held in the register are continually updated to reflect any changes which take place to properties, such as when ACMs are removed and also to take account of any new findings which we become aware of.

Our current Asbestos Management Policy is to leave in position all ACMs which are undamaged, in good condition, and where it is safe to do so.

If ACM is found and is damaged we will take measures to either remove or seal it immediately if the presence of this material is considered to present a high risk. In all other situations, and where the risks are considered low, we will undertake the work as part of a maintenance programme.

We will ensure that any such work is done by approved contractors who work to strict safety standards which meet current regulations.

### What are your responsibilities?

Carrying out any work on ACM without knowledge, expertise and personal protection can put your health at risk.

Changes to the structure or fabric of your home (home improvements and similar alterations) are not permitted under your tenancy agreement without prior written approval.

If you want to carry out improvements to your home, you should be aware that this may result in disturbance to materials containing asbestos. Because of this, you must contact us for permission to undertake this type of work. This will enable us to check our records and advise you on the presence of any ACMs which we hold information about and which may be disturbed by the proposed work.

At this time we will also be able to advise you on the controls that you will need to put in place to reduce exposure to you, your family and the person carrying out the work (if not yourself).