



ASBESTOS

What is this fact sheet about?

This fact sheet gives information about Asbestos, where it may be found in your home, and what the Co-operative does to manage it. Full details can be obtained from our offices in Aberdeen and Peterhead or on our web site at: <http://tenantsfirst.com/about-us/policies/policy-library.asp#propman>

Questions & Answers

Q What is Asbestos?

A Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral fibre which was mined in worldwide locations. There were three main types which were used extensively within building materials in the UK between 1950~80s. The different types are Crocidolite (known as blue asbestos) Grunerite/Amosite (known as brown asbestos), and Chrysotile (known as white asbestos).

Q Why is Asbestos dangerous?

A Asbestos is only a risk to health if asbestos fibres are released into the air and inhaled. If the fibres are inhaled, they lodge themselves into lung tissue. The body's defences cannot break them down, they work their way deeper into the lungs and can cause disease, usually Asbestosis, Mesothelioma or Lung Cancer. All the diseases are potentially fatal and almost always incurable.

Q Where is it likely to be in my home?

A Blue and Brown Asbestos were banned in 1985, white in 1999. So if your home was built after 1999 it won't have any. In homes built before this it could be in;

- Textured ceilings
- Insulation in storage heaters and around older gas boilers.
- Asbestos cement boards. Like garages, roof trims, gutters, etc.
- Vinyl and thermoplastic floor tiles
- Suspended ceiling tiles.

Q What is the Co-operative doing about Asbestos?

A The Co-operative (and all Employers and building owners) is obliged by law to protect their employees, the building occupants and tenants from being exposed to asbestos whilst working, visiting or living on the premises. We have a record of where Asbestos might be in your home. If we assess that it poses any risk to you, we will remove it as soon as it is practicable. We will also tell our Contractors of the potential risk if they are working on or near the area.

Q Why don't you just remove it?

A The vast majority of Asbestos in our properties is in Asbestos Cement Boards, generally on roofs, it is relatively safe and poses little risk. However, because of its location it would be very expensive to remove it now. We will remove it if we work on the area. This is normal practice.

Q I'm worried that there may be unsafe Asbestos in my home, what should I do?

A Contact us initially. We will come and look at the item and advise you what we will do. If you are unhappy with our actions you should contact the local council.

Q Can I get other information?

A Look at <http://www.stop-think-asbestos.co.uk>