

Asbestos

Prepare: Quiet location? No distractions? Talk aids ready?

Reason: Asbestos is the single greatest cause of work-related deaths in the UK. Asbestos-related diseases currently kill around **4500** people a year in Great Britain.

Why: Be aware of asbestos – it could kill you.

Outline: This talk will cover where you will find it, how it can affect you and hazardous work.



Where You Will Find Asbestos

Insulation and sprayed coatings used for:

- Boilers, plant and pipework hidden in underfloor ducting.
- Fire protection to steelwork, hidden behind false ceilings.
- Thermal and acoustic insulation of buildings.
- Some textured coatings and paints.

Q: Where you will find insulation and sprayed coatings? Insulating board used in the following places:

- Fire protection to doors, protected exits and steelwork.
- Cladding on walls and ceilings.
- Internal walls, partitions and suspended ceiling tiles

Q: Where will you find insulating boards?

Asbestos cement, which is found as:

- Corrugated roofing and cladding sheets of building.
- Flat sheets for partitions, cladding and door facings.
- Rainwater gutters and downpipes.

Q: Where will you find asbestos cement?

How Asbestos Can Affect You

- Asbestos breaks into tiny, long, sharp fibres. They can get lodged and scar the lungs, causing asbestosis or fibrosis.

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Asbestos

- Asbestos fibres may also cause lung cancer.
- It can also cause mesothelioma, a cancer of the inner lining of the chest wall. This cancer is incurable.
- Smokers are at much greater risk to asbestos diseases.

Q: In what ways can asbestos fibres affect you?

Hazardous Work

- Plumbers, carpenters and electricians working on building repair are considered most at risk.
- Old buildings constructed in the 1950s and 60s may have many forms of asbestos materials used in them.
- The removal of roofing felts, old floor tiles, textured paints and plasters containing asbestos.
- If you think you have come across asbestos, stop work and tell your supervisor or foreman.

Q: What are some of the hazardous work areas?

- Note to supervisor: Now inform your workforce of the company policy regarding working with asbestos

Do you have any questions for me?

Questions for you

Q: What would you do if you thought that you had discovered asbestos materials in your work area?

Q: What diseases can exposure to asbestos cause?

REMEMBER:

IF YOU SUSPECT ASBESTOS, STOP WORK IMMEDIATELY AND TELL YOUR SUPERVISOR

Sources

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/training.htm>

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/toolbox/harmful/asbestos.htm>

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