

What is asbestos?

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral made up of small fibres. It has been used in the UK in a wide range of building materials in an estimated 1.5 million properties until it was banned in 1999.

Where is asbestos found?

Asbestos can be found in many building products within a home. Here are a few examples:

- Some textured coatings – commonly known as Artex
- Some ceiling tiles and vinyl or thermoplastic floor tiles
- Rainwater and soil pipes
- Corrugated cement sheeting – usually found on garages and outbuildings
- Electrical Fuse Boards, rope seals or flash guard
- Asbestos pipe lagging/insulation
- Insulating boards, backs of doors or wall linings.

Is it harmful?

When materials containing asbestos are damaged or deteriorate they can release the fibres into the air which can be harmful if you inhale them. It's unlikely that any materials in your home containing asbestos will be harmful if they are left undisturbed, but it is important to stay informed and to take extra care. For example, if you are doing DIY work which could cause a release of asbestos fibres.

How do I tell if I have asbestos in my home?

You cannot tell just by looking if something contains asbestos. We use trained surveyors to identify any asbestos containing materials and you may have received a survey report detailing this.

If you are concerned about anything in your home that you think may contain asbestos please contact us for further advice on **0113 386 1000** before you disturb it or if you think it has been damaged.

For more information

See the HSE website <http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/member-of-public.htm>