

Asbestos



The information in this document will help you to carry out your work safely and securely, and in a way that ensures you meet the requirements of the working environment regulations. The document is intended to be an aid. In addition to these minimum requirements, operators undertake to conduct themselves in accordance with the applicable regulations. Translated 17.09.2018.

What is Asbestos?

Asbestos is a generic term for a group of natural minerals that can cause cancer, among other things. Asbestos was used a lot previously, as it provides good insulation and is fire-repellent. Mortality is expected to increase by 2020.

All types of asbestos are handled in the same way.

Up until 1985 used in both construction and industry. This means that an environmental survey of asbestos must be carried on all buildings prior to 1985.

Common terms

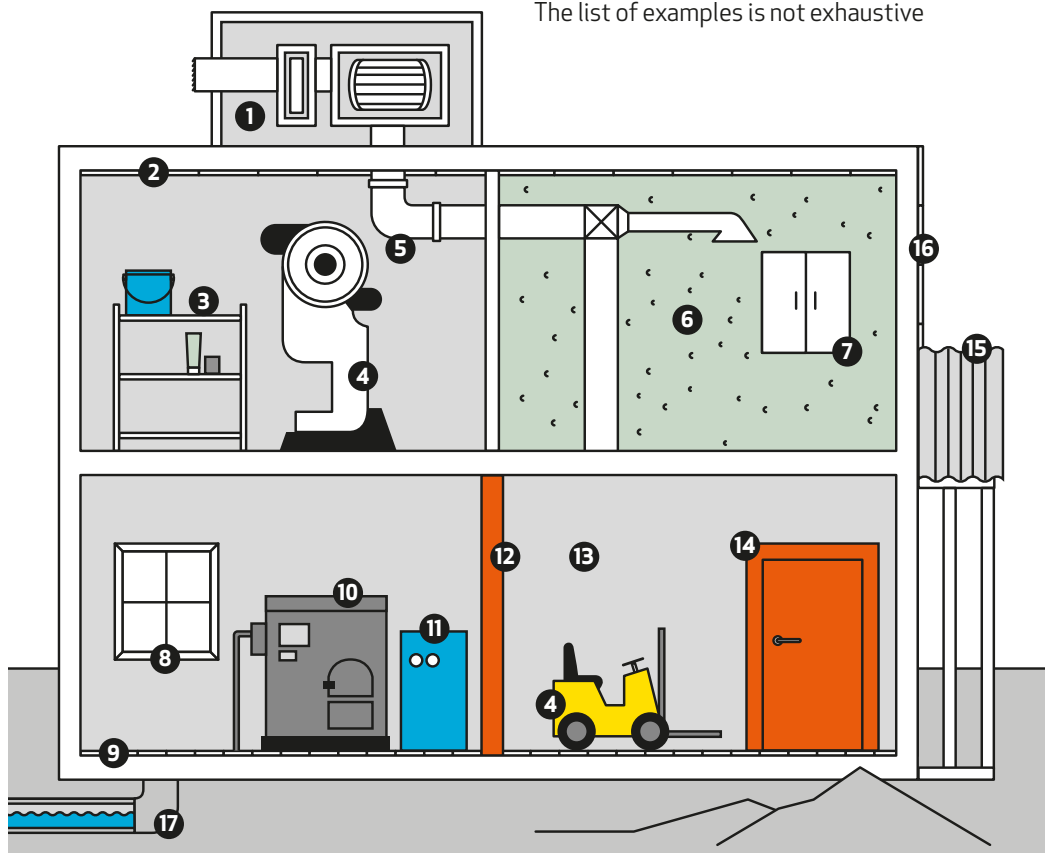
- White asbestos
- Brown asbestos
- Blue asbestos



Examples

- 1 Ventilation unit with sound suppressor and heat exchanger
- 2 Ceiling tiles
- 3 Paints and adhesives
- 4 Insulation and packaging materials in machines
- 5 Ventilation ducts and insulation
- 6 Structural painting
- 7 Spark protection in electrical cabinets
- 8 Window frames
- 9 Floor coverings/tiles, adhesive and screed
- 10 Boilers with pipes and packages
- 11 Insulation in steam and heating systems
- 12 Fire insulation on steel columns
- 13 Fire walls
- 14 Fire doors
- 15 Asbestos cement slabs
- 16 Eternit on walls and ceilings
- 17 Asbestos cement pipes

The list of examples is not exhaustive



Health risks

Around 200 people die in Norway every year from illnesses caused by asbestos. This is in spite of the fact that asbestos has been banned since 1985. It can take up to 55 years for asbestos cancer to develop.

Common illnesses

- Pulmonary fibrosis
- Asbestosis
- Mesothelioma (asbestos cancer of the lung membrane)
- Pleural plaques
- Lung cancer
- Cancer of the larynx and stomach/intestines

The risk of lung cancer increases considerably if asbestos is combined with smoking.

Requirements for companies carrying out asbestos removal

In view of the documented health risks, the authorities impose requirements on anyone who handles asbestos. All companies that carry out work with asbestos-containing materials must have a permit from the Norwegian Labour Inspection Authority.

Anyone handling asbestos must

- Undergo a suitable health examination of the lungs and respiratory tract
- Undergo special training

The content of the training is described in "Regulation on the Implementation of Work".

Private individuals/home owners may remove asbestos in their own home themselves, but must take their close environment into consideration and handle waste in accordance with the regulations.

Protective equipment

When removing asbestos externally

- Clothing covers
- Motor-assisted full-face mask
- Vacuum cleaner with absolute filtration

When removing asbestos internally

- Vacuum clean the removal area
- Clothing covers
- Motor-assisted full-face mask
- Vacuum cleaner fan with absolute filtration
- Vacuum cleaner with absolute filtration

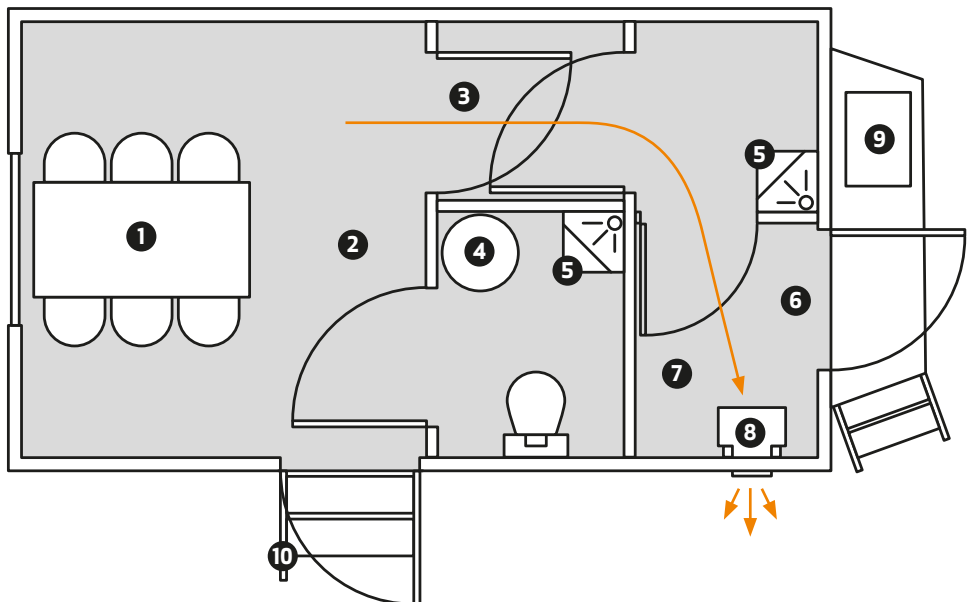


Hygiene

You should always shower after a work session, before leaving a contaminated area. This should be done either by means of a sluice or a hut, adapted to the purpose.

Proposals for a hut

- 1 Fixed table
- 2 Clean zone
- 3 Doors open inwards
- 4 Water heater
- 5 Shower
- 6 Dirty zone
- 7 Washbasin drain
- 8 Fan
- 9 Aggregate
- 10 Movable stairs



Waste

Waste must be handled in accordance with the waste regulations

- Must always be taken to an approved refuse site
- To be packed in its own closed packaging that provides sufficient protection against crushing or splitting, etc.
- To be marked "Contains asbestos ..."
- When stored prior to disposal, it must be kept in a closed and lockable container
- Asbestos dust must always be vacuum cleaned away



External hard asbestos boards should be removed by taking them down whole, one by one. The boards must be packaged and disposed of in accordance with the "Regulation on the Implementation of Work". In order to minimise the spread of fibres, any asbestos dust must be removed where it appears, and not swept or swilled down ceilings or walls.

Organisation

The system of regional safety representatives in the building and construction industry was introduced in 1981 and is a three-party collaboration between the Norwegian Labour Inspection Authority, the employer organisations Federation of Norwegian Construction Industries and Norwegian Association of Heavy Equipment Contractors, and the employee organisations Norwegian United Federation of Trade Unions and the Norwegian Union of General Workers. The system is financed through an annual fee paid by companies in the building and construction industry. The regional safety delegates for the construction industry are appointed by the Norwegian Union of General Workers, and the regional safety representatives for the building industry are appointed by the Norwegian United Federation of Trade Unions.

Secretariat

The secretariat handles administration, including collecting the fees. They can answer questions on how to calculate the fee and who must pay.



Fondet for regionale verneombud i bygge- og anleggsbransjen

Postboks 22 Sentrum
0101 Oslo

Visiting address: Stenersgata 1 E, Oslo

Website: rvofond.no

Telephone: 815 58 070

Organisation no.: 975 945 065