

# Asbestos

## Resident Information

Asbestos is the name given to a group of **naturally occurring fibrous minerals**, which were widely used from the 1930s to the 1980s. It was widespread in its use because it is strong, durable and resistant to heat, chemicals and fire, **and all types of asbestos were banned in 1999.**

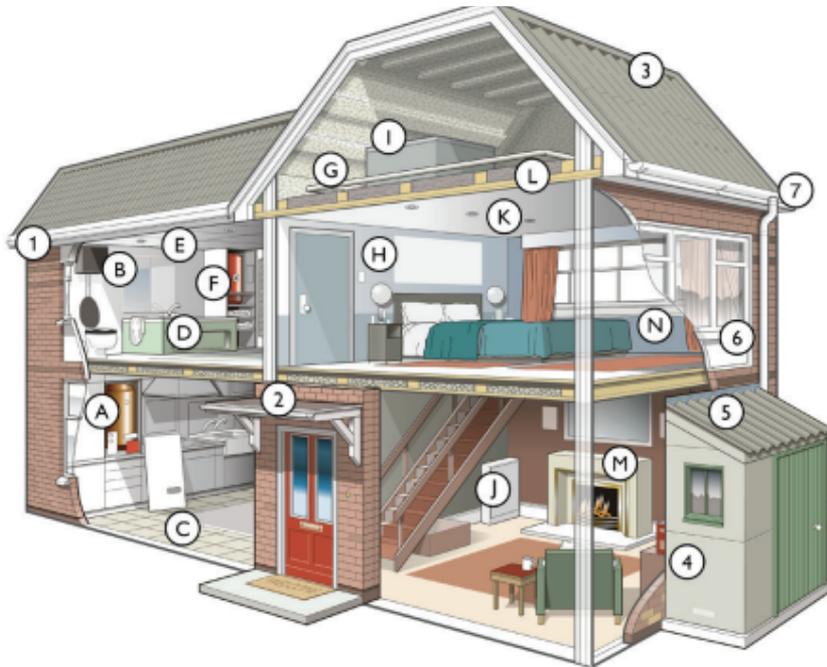
It is estimated that 2 million homes in the UK have asbestos present. If your home was built before the 2000s, there is a possibility it will contain asbestos.

Asbestos in homes is common and **it only becomes a risk when it is damaged or disturbed** (for example, through drilling, sanding and sawing) which could

potentially release fibres into the air which if breathed in, could cause asbestos related illnesses.

If you have any concerns or think asbestos is damaged in your property, **then please contact us on 0300 1234 161** as soon as possible so we can assess and carry out the necessary repairs.

# Where could I find asbestos?



**A.** asbestos insulating board (AIB) around boiler

**B.** toilet cistern

**C.** vinyl floor tiles backed with asbestos paper and bitumen adhesive

**D.** AIB or asbestos cement bath panels

**E.** AIB ceiling tiles

**F.** AIB airing cupboard and/or sprayed insulation coating boiler

**G.** pipe lagging

**H.** AIB partition wall

**I.** asbestos cement water tank

**J.** AIB behind fuse box

**K.** textured decorative coating, for example Artex

**L.** loose fill insulation

**M.** AIB behind fire

**N.** AIB or asbestos cement interior window panel

**1.** AIB or asbestos cement soffits and fascias

**2.** roofing felt

**3.** asbestos cement roof tiles/slates

**4.** asbestos cement panels

**5.** profiled asbestos cement sheeting

**6.** AIB or asbestos cement exterior window panel

**7.** gutters and asbestos cement downpipes

(Diagram from [hse.gov.uk](http://hse.gov.uk))

# How do I find out if I have asbestos in my home?

**Cornwall Housing are in the process of getting all of their properties surveyed for asbestos.**

On completion of the survey a summary letter will be issued detailing what asbestos is present, where it is located and what the risk level is.

The majority of the asbestos located within Cornwall Housing properties is Asbestos Artex and Asbestos Floor tiles. Both materials are very low risk

but it is still important to inform us if this material gets damaged in any way.

Information regarding asbestos within our homes is kept on our asbestos portal which enables us to monitor and manage it safely.

We regularly inspect all communal areas of our buildings to ensure we know where the asbestos is and what condition it is in.

# What should I do if I have or find asbestos?

**Asbestos is safe if it hasn't been disturbed, and it is important that it is left alone.**

The CHL Asbestos Team are available to be contacted if you have any concerns.

If you are planning on carrying out any DIY within your home then CHL have to be informed as further checks may be necessary.

If you think you have damaged any materials containing asbestos, do not attempt to clean up any debris yourself, contact CHL immediately where we can advise on the next steps.

Where necessary we will repair or remove any damaged, fragile or disturbed asbestos containing material.

## Do's and Don'ts



Do leave the asbestos alone and undisturbed.



Don't try and remove the asbestos yourself – dealing with asbestos requires specialist training. We have trained staff and licenced contractors who can carry out asbestos work.



Don't drill through asbestos containing materials.



Don't rub down or sand an area where you think there might be asbestos.



Don't break off pieces of materials that you know, or suspect may contain asbestos.

CORNWALL  
HOUSING

Contact us if you have any questions, we can arrange for a Surveyor to carry out an assessment and decide on the next steps.



0300 1234 161



[asbestos@cornwallhousing.org.uk](mailto:asbestos@cornwallhousing.org.uk)