Asbestos in your home:
How to stay safe

Partnership • Respect • Pride
Realising the potential in our communities

We want to reassure you that if asbestos is present in your home we are managing it and our priority is to keep you, and any of our contractors who may work on your home, safe. If you follow the advice in this leaflet you have no reason to worry, so please read on to find out more.

What is asbestos?

Asbestos is the name given to naturally occurring fibrous raw materials found in many parts of the world. Asbestos fibres are strong and resistant to heat and chemicals. This led in the past to their use in a wide range of building materials and products.

When is asbestos a problem?

Asbestos in the home is not a problem as long as it isn't disturbed and is in good condition.

When asbestos deteriorates, becomes damaged or is disturbed - for example by drilling or sanding - fibres can be released into the air. If you breathe these fibres in, you are at risk of developing an asbestos related disease which can, in some cases, lead to death.

Most materials containing asbestos in homes are of low risk, but even so, contact with these asbestos fibres should be avoided. If asbestos is in a position where it might be damaged easily, it may be better for it to be removed.

Removal of any asbestos material needs to be carried out by a licensed contractor.

We will advise you if this is the case and will arrange to have the work done for you.

Where can I find asbestos?

Common materials that may have contained asbestos in the past include:

- Roofing materials such as corrugated sheets
- Bath panels, soffit boards, fire surroundings, flue pipes, cold water tanks, guttering and drain pipes
- Decorative coatings such as artex, and other similar products
- Plastic and vinyl floor tiles
- Toilet cisterns and seats
- Some components of central heating systems, including hot water boilers, gas fires, electric storage heaters
- Insulating board used for fire protection and ceiling tiles
- Ducting, covering service pipes

- Loft or cavity wall insulation does not contain asbestos.

What is Red Kite doing about asbestos?

We have a database which holds information on all the properties we own and manage, with specific asbestos information recorded against each address.

The database is used to monitor and manage any asbestos-containing materials. This may involve us revisiting selected properties regularly to carry out checks on certain asbestos materials.

Where required, we will carry out specialist surveys to make sure our records are kept continually up to date. There are different types of surveys, some of which involve taking samples of materials suspected of containing asbestos, which we've listed in this leaflet. These samples are then tested. More in depth surveys can involve disruption but we will discuss this with you before if we have to carry out the type of survey.

The law doesn't require that we remove materials that contain asbestos from your home, but if a suspect material becomes damaged and is reported to us or noted on a routine inspection visit, we will arrange the necessary repair or removal work.

We will also revisit homes to survey them prior to any major works, such as installing a new bathroom or kitchen.

Where we have to remove asbestos, we will pay for this work.

What can I do about asbestos?

Take care when doing DIY.

If you have asbestos materials in your home, extra care should be taken when carrying out DIY.

Do not do any work which involves drilling, cutting or disturbing materials suspected of containing asbestos.

Special precautions are required if this work is absolutely necessary. Do not scrape or sand suspected asbestos materials before painting or decorating. Some types of asbestos materials are very soft and can release large numbers of fibres if rubbed or scraped.

You should contact us on **01494 476100** for further specific advice before you attempt any works.

You must not attempt to remove any asbestos yourself. All work must be carried out by a competent person or depending on the type of asbestos, by a licensed contractor. Asbestos waste must be removed and disposed of in an approved manner in line with the Hazardous Waste Regulations 2005 and our procedures.

For more information please contact us:

asbestos@redkitehousing.org.uk

01494 476100

Do not attempt to remove any asbestos yourself