

Uniting Housing - Renter's guide to asbestos.

What is asbestos?

Asbestos is a mineral fibre. It was used for the construction of walls and roofs, and for insulation and fire protection.

Is asbestos dangerous?

Asbestos can be hazardous to your health. Breathing in asbestos fibres can lead to diseases such as asbestosis, lung cancer and mesothelioma.

Is asbestos still used to build or repair housing?

No. Asbestos is commonly found in many homes built before 1990. Since 2004, asbestos has been banned for use in all building products.

Is asbestos ever safe?

Construction materials with asbestos are safe if they are in good condition and left undisturbed.

Asbestos is unsafe when the fibres are released into the air and could be breathed in. This means asbestos products must not be drilled, cut, sanded or water blasted.

Can I transfer out of my home if it has asbestos?

No, you cannot transfer into a new property if asbestos is in your home.

The home is safe as long as the asbestos is in good condition and left undisturbed. If the area becomes damaged, a qualified Uniting contractor will safely repair the area.

Can I repair or remove material I think is asbestos?

You must not alter your home in any way without Uniting's permission. Disturbing asbestos could harm your health.

If you think material is asbestos, or if there is a damaged area, tell Uniting as soon as possible, and stay away from the area.

A qualified Uniting contractor will come to your home as soon as possible and inspect the area. If the material contains asbestos, Uniting will ensure the material is made safe or removed.

Are Uniting's contractors trained to deal with asbestos?

All of Uniting's contractors must abide by regulations when they handle or move asbestos matter. This means they must be licensed to work with asbestos.

Document Name: <i>Uniting Housing - Renter's Guide to Asbestos</i>	Policy Area: <i>Quality, Risk & Compliance</i>	
Document Number: <i>UD-UH-010</i>	Classification: <i>Internal/External</i>	
Version Number: <i>1.0</i>	Document Owner: <i>Senior Manager, Tenancy Services</i>	
Publication date: <i>12/07/2023</i>	Endorsed by: <i>Senior Manager, Tenancy Services</i>	
CMS embedded: <i>n/a</i>	<i>Printed copies of this document are considered uncontrolled.</i>	Page 1 of 1