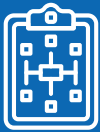


What is asbestos?

Asbestos is a generic name given to a fibrous variety of six naturally occurring minerals that were used in the development of commercial products. Asbestos cannot be seen by the naked eye, but can remain in the air and are easily inhaled. There is no known safe exposure level to asbestos above 0.01 PPM. The more you are exposed, the greater the risk of developing an asbestos-related disease. (Only White, Brown and Blue are likely to be found in Ireland).



Assess the Risk

Before starting any works, you must assess the risk of exposure to asbestos, check if this work requires a licenced contractor and prepare a task specific work plan with risk assessment.



Records

Each building is required to have written records specifying asbestos dangers (Asbestos Register). These records should indicate all relevant substances that are present along with the volume present, the kind/type of material it is, and the condition the material is in.



Train Staff

It is essential for anyone working in environments where they are likely to be exposed to asbestos fibres to be trained in asbestos awareness and the correct procedures for the recognition and the prevention of handling asbestos.



PPE

Ensure your employees have access to the appropriate PPE which must be suitable, must fit properly and must ensure that the worker's exposure to asbestos fibres is as low as possible. E.g. disposable overalls, gloves and footwear, respiratory protective equipment. (Remember the PPE on completion requires cleaning or must be considered asbestos waste).



Labelling

In a workplace, all asbestos containing materials (ACM's) should be very clearly labelled.