

Other useful websites

Health and Safety Executive www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos

Asbestos Removal Contractors Association www.arcaweb.org.uk

The Clydebank Asbestos Group clydebankasbestos@ntlbusiness.com

This document is also available in other languages, large print and audio format on request.

Arabic

هذه الوثيقة متاحة أيضا بلغات أخرى والأحرف الطباعية الكبيرة وبطريقة سمعية عند الطلب.



British Sign Language users can contact us via contactSCOTLAND-BSL, the on-line British Sign Language interpreting service on

Chinese (Cantonese)

本文件也可應要求，製作成其他語文或特大字體版本，也可製作成錄音帶。

Gaelic

Tha an sgrìobhainn seo cuideachd ri fhaighinn ann an cànanan eile, ann an clò mòr, agus ann an cruth claisneachd ma thèid iarraidh

Hindi

अनुग्राह पर यह दस्तावेज़ अन्य भाषाओं में, बड़े अक्षरों की छपाई और सुनने वाले माध्यम पर भी उपलब्ध है

Polish

Dokument ten jest na życzenie udostępniany także w innych wersjach językowych, w dużym druku lub w formacie audio.

Punjabi

ਇਹ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ, ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਅਤੇ ਆਡੀਓ ਟੇਪ 'ਤੇ ਰਿਕਾਰਡ ਹੋਇਆ ਵੀ ਮੰਗ ਕੇ ਲਿਆ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ।

Ukrainian

Цей документ також доступний іншими мовами, великим шрифтом та в аудіоформаті за запитом.

Urdu

درخواست پر یہ دستاویز دیگر زبانوں میں، بڑے حروف کی چھپائی اور سننے والے ذرائع پر بھی میسر ہے۔



Asbestos in the home Guidance for tenants



West Dunbartonshire Council, 16 Church Street, Dumbarton, G82 1QL



equalities@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk

A

Many homes within the West Dunbartonshire area will have asbestos containing materials as part of their construction. Asbestos materials that are in a good condition and undamaged are not dangerous as they will not release asbestos fibres.

West Dunbartonshire Council has a duty to manage asbestos in its properties. This leaflet gives you advice about areas where asbestos can be found and what to do if you discover asbestos.

What is asbestos?

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral fibre that has been used for many years because it:

- is heat and fire resistant
- can withstand great stress over time without breaking
- is non corrosive
- is acid resistant

Asbestos was added to a wide range of building materials that were used for fireproofing, insulating and strengthening. Some examples of materials that may include asbestos are cement, vinyl products, fillers or adhesives and decorative coatings such as Artex.

Is asbestos harmful?

When asbestos containing materials are damaged or deteriorate with age, they can release very small fibres which are invisible to the naked eye. Asbestos is only harmful if disturbed fibres released into the air are breathed in. These fibres can penetrate into body tissue such as the lungs, throat etc and in extreme cases lead to serious illness.

What to do if you think you have asbestos in your home.

- Remember, if the material containing asbestos is in a good condition, it will **not** release fibres.
- Don't drill, sand, saw or disturb any materials which you know contain asbestos.
- Don't try to remove the materials yourself.
- Treat asbestos materials with respect.
- Before carrying out any DIY works, always consult the Housing Repairs Centre to seek advice.
- If you suspect that materials which contain asbestos are damaged, please contact the Housing Repairs Centre to arrange for a housing inspector to visit. The details are on page four and eight of this leaflet.

Where is asbestos likely to be found?

It is not always easy to spot asbestos containing materials on their appearance alone, especially if they have been decorated in some way.

Common materials that may contain asbestos

- Ceiling tiles
- Pipe insulation
- Boilers
- Sprayed coatings
- Asbestos cement sheeting
- Soffit boards
- Textured coatings
- Inside fire doors
- Gaskets and sealants on pipe joints
- Fuse boxes and electrical switchgear
- Board around windows, radiators, fireplaces, building columns and pillars

How can I reduce the risk of exposure to asbestos?

If you are planning any DIY work and think that asbestos may be present contact Housing Maintenance .

Keep any DIY disturbance to a minimum.

Report any damage to materials you think might contain asbestos to us.



Infill panel



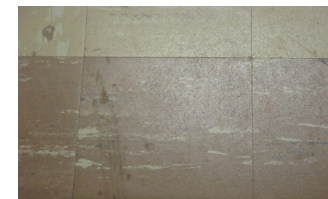
Artex



Surround at boiler



Soffit board



Vinyl floor tiles



Cement water tank

What should I do if I accidentally damage or disturb asbestos?

If you damage a material containing asbestos please make sure that you:

- Don't panic, but leave the room quickly.
- Make sure no one else enters the room.
- Don't attempt to repair the damage or clear up any debris using a brush or vacuum cleaner as this will release fibres into the air.
- Contact **Housing Maintenance**

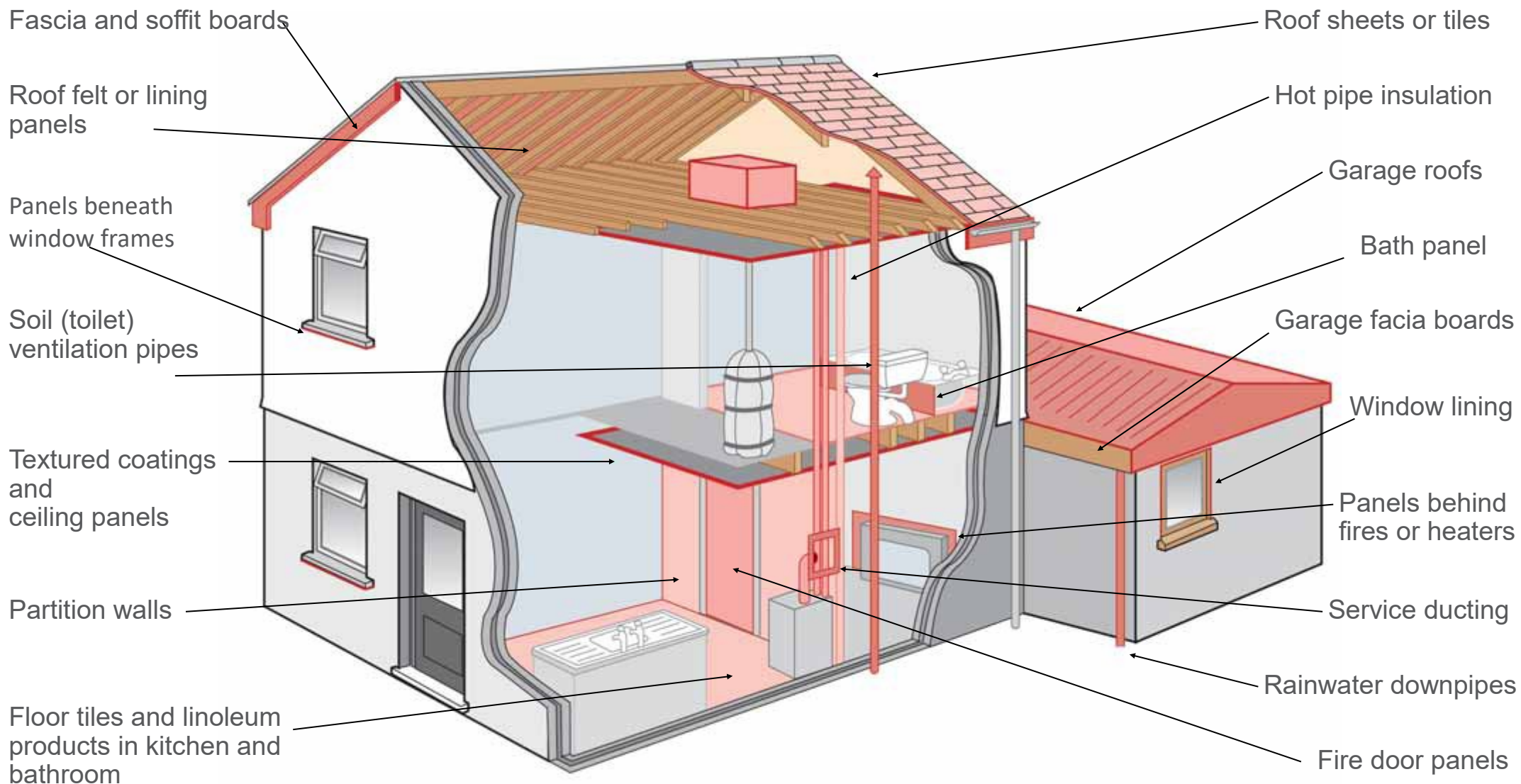
Freephone (from landlines) 0800 073 8708.

Out with working hours: 0800 197 1004

Email

contactcentre@west-dunbarton.gov.uk
housing.repairs@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Here are some of the most common possible locations of asbestos. It is very unlikely that your home would contain asbestos in all the places shown in this diagram.



How does the Council manage asbestos?

The Council aims to maintain your property to a high standard. Any materials containing asbestos are most likely to be in a good condition and are unlikely to pose any significant risk to your health.

As part of our stock condition survey we will be carrying out a survey of materials which may contain asbestos. The surveys will help make sure that tenants, contractors and visitors remain safe.

- We will carry out a full internal and external visual inspection of your property.
- We will keep a log of the type, location and condition of any asbestos containing material found.
- If any asbestos is found to be damaged, then it will be immediately removed or sealed and made safe.

When the survey is complete tenants can request a copy of the survey for their home. We will publish more details about this when information becomes available.

Will you remove asbestos if it is found in my home?

We will only remove asbestos where it is found to be in a poor condition or damaged. Generally it is better to leave asbestos in place and manage it. Removal creates a greater risk of the release of fibres and possible exposure.

Contact Details

Housing Maintenance

Freephone (from landlines) 0800 073 8708

Out with working hours call 0800 197 1004

Email

contactcentre@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

housing.repairs@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Things to remember!

Do

- Always wear protective equipment, e.g. face mask if you are doing any DIY work.
- Soak wallpaper before removing, if possible use a steam stripper and peel the paper before re-decorating.
- If you think that an asbestos containing material has been damaged contact us.

Don't

- Do not dust, sweep, or vacuum debris that may contain asbestos.
- Do not drill, saw, scrub or sand anything you think may contain asbestos.
- Don't try to remove old floor tiles or linoleum. Leave them in place and lay new floor coverings over them.