



## Housing ACT Fact Sheet

# Managing Asbestos

### Why has Housing ACT given me an Asbestos Advisory Form?

Laws have been introduced to help raise public awareness about the safe management of materials containing asbestos in ACT premises.

By raising public awareness of materials containing asbestos and promoting better management of these materials we can help reduce the incidence of asbestos-related diseases.

From 4 April 2005 owners and occupiers of premises need to give:

- Tenants and prospective tenants;
- Prospective buyers; and
- Persons doing relevant work at the premises (eg construction, renovation, installation or alteration)

information, in writing, on what they know about asbestos at the premises.

The Housing ACT Asbestos Advisory Form tells you that if your property was constructed before 1988 it may have materials containing asbestos and if so, in what location these materials are usually found. It also tells you what Housing ACT knows about the location of these materials in and around your property – if Housing ACT has any specific information.

### What are my obligations under the Asbestos Legislation as a tenant of Housing ACT?

The law requires you, as a tenant or lessee to tell in writing any tradespeople if you are aware of the presence of asbestos in your home before they start work on your property.

If you have any further information about the materials containing asbestos you should also provide this information.

Housing ACT will also give information to contractors that it employs to undertake work at your property.

### What do I do if there is material that contains asbestos in my home?

Materials containing asbestos do not pose a health risk if they are left alone and maintained in good condition.

However, if it deteriorates or becomes damaged, contact the Maintenance Call Centre on 6207 1500 immediately to investigate the situation. Housing ACT's maintenance contractors will assess the situation and undertake any remedial action using licensed asbestos removalists.

Under no circumstances should you handle or remove the material yourself.

### What do I do if I find pieces of asbestos in my yard?

You may find smaller pieces of sheeting asbestos in your yard, buried in the soil. This is likely to be more common in yards where the previous property was demolished in the early 1980's. If you do find any pieces of asbestos in your yard contact the Maintenance Call Centre on 6207 1500 to arrange for removal. Once again, you should not handle or remove the material yourself. The asbestos will be removed by licensed asbestos removalists and a remedial plan will be implemented if required.

### Can I refuse an offer of a property because of the presence of materials that may contain asbestos?

The presence or possible presence of materials that contain asbestos is not sufficient reason for refusing an offer of accommodation. As the majority of properties owned by Housing ACT were

constructed prior to 1988, it is likely that many of them have materials that may contain asbestos.

The risks associated with asbestos occur when materials containing it are damaged or disturbed. These materials do not pose a risk to your health if they are maintained in good condition and you leave them alone.

### Further Information

For more information about asbestos in your property phone Housing ACT on 133427.

For general information about materials containing asbestos go to the ACT Government Asbestos Internet Website at;

[www.asbestos.act.gov.au](http://www.asbestos.act.gov.au)

or telephone Canberra Connect on 132281.

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