



## Housing ACT Fact Sheet

# MANAGING ASBESTOS

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

New 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 Asbestos Advisory Form tells you that if your property was constructed before 1985 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 new law requires you, as a tenant or lessee to tell in writing any tradespeople of the information contained on the attached form before they start work on your property.

To help you provide this information, Housing ACT has given you a *Managing Asbestos: Advisory Form (Section 47J, Dangerous Substances Act 2004)*. You should give a copy of this form or the

information contained in the form in writing to anyone you ask to conduct maintenance or other work on the property, so that materials containing asbestos can be safely managed. If you have any further information about the materials containing asbestos you should also provide this information.

Housing ACT will also give the information in the Advisory Form 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 Housing ACT (maintenance call centre) 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.

### 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 1985, 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.

You can also talk to the Applicant Services Centre.

## Applicant Services Centre

Nature Conservation House  
Cnr Emu Bank & Benjamin Way  
Belconnen Town Centre  
(Open 9:00am to 5:00pm Mon to Fri)

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