

ASBESTOS

The Hazardous Waste Collection and Disposal Service (HWCDs) provide a subsidised collection service to London residents in all London Boroughs with the exception of Hillingdon. We collect wrapped sheets of bonded asbestos or builders' rubble bags of broken asbestos. Small quantities of fibrous asbestos (no more than one bag of 80 litre capacity) can also be collected.

The service is available to householders who pay the council tax for the property where the asbestos originated. [We ask for proof of recent council tax payments.](#)

We do not provide a collection service for landlords, businesses or charities.

Please note that our service is for the collection of wrapped asbestos only.

- We do not take boilers or storage heaters
- We do not provide asbestos testing or surveys
- We do not dismantle asbestos
- We do not provide polythene or a wrapping service.

We will collect asbestos provided it is wrapped according to our instructions below.

General information

Asbestos cement was used for cold water tanks, garage and shed roofs, guttering and down pipes. If asbestos is in good condition it is best left undisturbed. However, asbestos sheets can deteriorate with age and may need to be removed and replaced. Fibres are released when sheets are broken, cut, drilled or sanded.

Handling

When removing asbestos sheets please follow the health and safety guidelines:

Always wear safety glasses, dust mask (to conform to EN149:2001 Standard with a rating of FFP3) and disposable gloves when handling asbestos products. If possible also wear a disposable suit.

Never rub down, sand, saw or drill asbestos materials and never use power tools.

Never use a brush or scraper to remove moss from roofing sheets or debris from guttering.

Dampen asbestos with a fine water spray prior to dismantling

Avoid breaking the sheets during the dismantling process. If breakages occur put the smaller broken pieces into a heavy duty polythene bag. Builders' rubble bags are ideal.

The Health and Safety Executive website provide additional advice:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/faq.htm>

Wrapping

- Items must be **individually** wrapped or bagged in heavy duty polythene (1000 gauge) and sealed with strong tape. If the packaging is punctured or split the item will not be collected.
- Each item must be of a size and weight to be easily lifted by one person.
- If the asbestos comes down in sheets, each piece must be individually wrapped. **DO NOT WRAP TWO OR MORE PIECES TOGETHER** due to manual handling issues, and because the pieces tend to rub together and create dust. WE do not take packages.
- If the asbestos comes down as rubble, put the waste into builder's rubble bags. Each bag needs to be easily lifted by one person and sealed with a strong tape.
- Heavy duty polythene (1000 gauge) is available from most builders' merchants and DIY stores.
- Each item must be labelled with the words, 'WARNING – CONTAINS ASBESTOS – DO NOT INHALE DUST'

Arranging the Collection

Once you know the exact amount of waste you have for disposal please call **020 7332 3433** to arrange the collection.

You will be asked to confirm the length and width of each asbestos sheet in centimetres or metres (eg. 1.2m x 2.6m) and/or the number of rubble bags you have for collection.

We post the paperwork to the address where the asbestos is to be collected from, along with a receipt if a payment has been made. We are unable to email the form because we need to confirm that the waste is originating from a residential property.

Please check the paperwork, sign and date and return to us either by post or email to the address below. A collection cannot be arranged until this form has been completed and returned.

Once your signed form is returned to HWCDS it will be forwarded to the contractor who will contact you (by telephone) to let you know when they are collecting. You will be given at least two days' notice of collection.

The contractor divides the collections into areas of London and so you will receive a collection when the contractor is next working in your area. Please note this may take up to 10 working days.

Please ensure waste is wrapped and ready for collection before returning your form. If there are bulky items to collect you may be required to help the driver load it onto the vehicle. The driver will assist in every way he can to ensure the collection goes smoothly.

Please Note: you are entitled to only one visit from our contractors per rolling year

Storing asbestos

The waste must be stored safely and securely at ground level close to the front boundary of the property and easily accessible for a van.

When completing the hazardous waste consignment note please ensure that all written details are correct before you sign to release the waste to the contractor.

You are legally obliged to keep a copy of the consignment note for at least 3 years as proof of proper disposal.

Charges and payment

You are entitled to the first 15m² for free or the first 7 builders' rubble bags if the asbestos is broken up (not recommended).

We can collect up to 30 sqm (approximately 2 garage roofs) but an additional charge will apply, payable only by credit or debit card registered to the collection address.

If you are unsure on any of the storage, handling or packaging instructions, please contact Biffa on 01438 759 850 for advice.

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