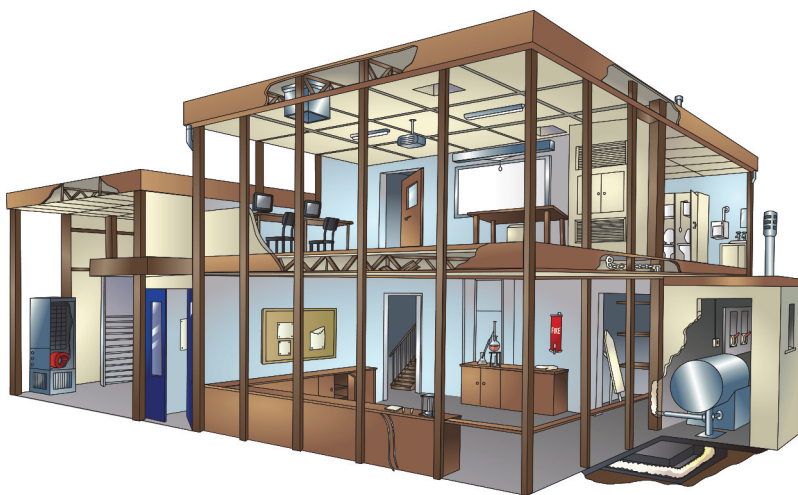




Take notice of Asbestos



Asbestos is a 'Hidden Killer'
**Asbestos Awareness Project
in Schools**



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*Asbestos is a
'Hidden Killer'*

The scale of the problem

The Department of Education's best estimate is that over 75% of schools contain asbestos. The Health & Safety Executive (HSE) summarised the extent of the use of asbestos in schools:

"Of the approximate 20,400 primary schools and 3,400 secondary schools in the UK, some 13,000 were built between 1945 and 1974, when the use of Asbestos Containing Materials (ACMs) in building was at its peak. Many other school premises would have been refurbished during or since that period, providing the potential for the introduction of ACMs eg lagging, ceiling panels, partition walls, sprayed coatings. This suggests that a high proportion of our present schools contain asbestos and represent the potential to release deadly fibres."

Why be aware of asbestos?

It has the potential to cause disease including asbestos cancer – Mesothelioma.

What is Mesothelioma?

Mesothelioma is also known as 'diffuse' or 'malignant' mesothelioma. Mesothelioma is a form of cancer that affects the mesothelium, which is a thin membrane that lines the inner surface of the chest wall where it is known as the pleura, and abdomen, where it is known as the peritoneum. It also surrounds the organs found within these cavities, for example the heart, lung and intestines.
www.mesothelioma.uk.com

Even low levels of exposure can prove fatal. Currently there is no cure for Mesothelioma.



Where can I find asbestos in my school?

You cannot tell if something contains asbestos from looking at it. Check the Asbestos Survey and Register which will show where the asbestos is and what condition it is in. It should ideally have been carried out within the last five years and it should be updated annually.

- Asbestos insulating board (AIB) looks like plasterboard and can be in the walls, ceilings, window and door surrounds and columns of any room including classrooms, corridors, toilets, halls, cupboards, gyms and swimming pools. It can be above suspended ceilings. It can be anywhere as it was used as a general building board.
- Sprayed asbestos can be on the ceilings or around the structural beams
- Lagging can be around the heating pipes, in the walls, loft and in floor ducting
- Floor tiles can contain asbestos which is released if they are damaged or worn

Be aware of the condition of the Asbestos

- If asbestos is not damaged or disturbed it will not release fibres but if it is, then it will
- If children can knock into asbestos walls or columns there is the potential for asbestos fibres to be released
- If doors or windows are slammed and the door or window surrounds contain asbestos, then asbestos fibres can be released
- Footballs kicked into ceilings can release asbestos fibres. Vandalism can potentially release high levels

- Pictures pinned or stapled to asbestos walls or ceilings will release asbestos fibres
- If decorations are hung from the suspended ceiling grid and the tiles are asbestos then fibres will be released. Ceiling voids of schools can also contain asbestos debris which will be released if the ceiling tiles are disturbed.
- Softer, more friable material releases fibres more easily.

Action to take if Asbestos is damaged

- The action should be included in the school's "Asbestos Management Plan"
- The room should be evacuated and preferably locked
- The damage should be reported immediately
- Only trained, authorised people should enter the room

NB: The room should be evacuated and preferably locked.

About DAST

Derbyshire Asbestos Support Team is a registered charity which helps anyone within the East Midlands who is diagnosed with an asbestos related disease. Our support is also extended to family members and carers of victims of asbestos related diseases as well as bereaved families. Our holistic service includes help with benefits advice, Government compensation and advice about making a civil claim through membership or former membership of a trade union or through our expert panel of Solicitors.

We bring families together by organising meetings, conferences and support events as well as providing newsletters to share information and support. We also raise awareness about the dangers of exposure to asbestos.



Campaigning

Mesothelioma Vigil

We campaign to ensure that victims of asbestos related diseases receive justice. We are a founder member of the

Asbestos Victims Support Groups' Forum (UK) which comes together to fight for justice and best practice for victims of asbestos related diseases.



Thank You

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www.asbestosexposureschools.co.uk
www.asbestosinschools.org.uk

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