

# PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) FOR WORKING WITH < 10M<sup>2</sup> OF BONDED ASBESTOS

## ASBESTOS SAFE WORK FACT SHEET

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**Asbestos is a hazardous substance.**

**When you are carrying out work that may involve disturbing and/or removing materials that contain asbestos, it's important to wear protective equipment that prevents you from inhaling asbestos fibres. It's also important that you dispose of the equipment correctly. Where possible, you should use disposable equipment.**

**If you are not qualified or appropriately licensed to carry out asbestos work, engage someone who is.**

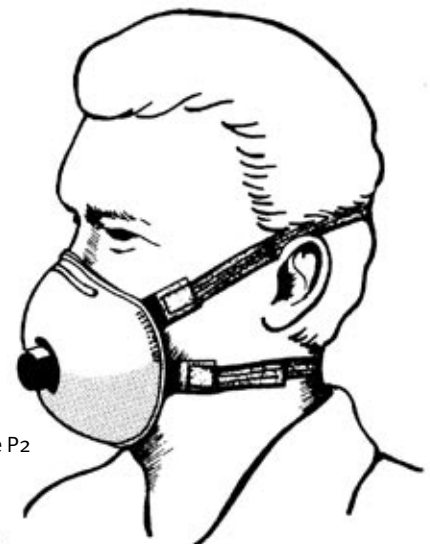
**Follow the correct safety procedures and protect yourself from asbestos related disease.**

### BREATHING EQUIPMENT

- As a minimum you should wear an SAA approved P2 face respirator, with two straps.
- Either a disposable or non-disposable half-face dust filter respirator is appropriate for work with asbestos cement sheeting (e.g. low speed drilling and cutting) or removal of bonded asbestos cement products.
- Do not reuse a disposable respirator or filters. They must be disposed of as asbestos waste.
- Filters must be replaced if using non-disposable respirators. The respirator must also be cleaned using damp cloths. Warning: do not reuse or resoak cloths and dispose of as asbestos waste.
- Persons with beards or other facial hair or stubble should be clean shaven to achieve facial seal required for respirators.
- Remember the respirator should be the first thing to go on and the last thing to come off.

### COVERALLS

- Use disposable coveralls with fitted hoods and cuffs so that personal clothing does not become contaminated.
- Don't wear personal clothing made from wool or other materials that attract fibrous dusts when you're working with asbestos.
- Fitted hoods should always be worn over the straps of respirators, and loose cuffs should be sealed with tape.
- Don't reuse disposable coveralls. Wrap disposable coveralls in a double layer of plastic and dispose as asbestos waste once the task is completed.



Disposable P2



Non-disposable P2

*Source: NOHSC Code of Practice for Safe Removal of Asbestos, 2005*



**Asbestos Awareness.**  
Helping everyone breathe easier.

## FOOTWEAR

- Gum boots or laceless steel-capped rubber-soled work boots with disposable boot covers are preferred, as asbestos dust can gather in the laces and eyelets. Alternatively, use old footwear and dispose of as asbestos waste when the job is completed.
- Always decontaminate safety footwear before you leave the asbestos work area for any reason, or seal footwear in double bags for use only on the next asbestos maintenance task.
- Disposable boot covers must be disposed of as asbestos waste.

## PERSONAL DECONTAMINATION CHECKLIST

Never leave the asbestos work area until decontamination is complete. Always leave respirator on during decontamination process.

- Remove any visible asbestos dust/residue from protective clothing using an asbestos vacuum cleaner or wiping down with damp cloths. Warning: do not reuse or resoak damp cloths.
- Place cloths into disposal bag (200-micron ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) thick plastic bags).
- Take disposable coveralls off and place into disposal bags (while still using respirator).
- Use damp cloths to wipe down footwear and place cloths into disposal bag.
- Seal all plastic bags with duct tape and place each into a second plastic bag.
- Seal this second plastic bag and label/mark as "Asbestos waste".
- Use damp rags to wipe external surfaces of the disposal bags to remove any dust before its removed from the work area.
- Place damp cloths into disposable bags, remove your personal protective equipment and double bag, seal with duct tape and mark as "Asbestos Waste".
- Dispose of respirator in double bag, seal with duct tape and mark as "Asbestos Waste".
- Dispose of asbestos waste at the appropriate waste facility (Mugga Lane or Mitchell).

**For more information, see the asbestos website ([www.asbestos.act.gov.au](http://www.asbestos.act.gov.au)) or contact 13 22 81.**