

1.0 ASBESTOS

1.1 Background

Asbestos fibres are present in the environment in Great Britain, so people are exposed to very low levels of fibres. However, a key factor in the risk of developing an asbestos-related disease is the total number of fibres breathed in. Working on or near damaged asbestos-containing materials or breathing in high levels of asbestos fibres, which may be many hundreds of times that of environmental levels could increase your chances of getting an asbestos-related disease.

When these fibres are inhaled, they can cause serious diseases which are responsible for around 4000 deaths a year. There are four main diseases caused by asbestos: mesothelioma (which is always fatal), lung cancer (almost always fatal), asbestosis (not always fatal, but it can be very debilitating) and diffuse pleural thickening (not fatal).

Remember, these diseases will not affect you immediately but later on in life, so there is a need for you to protect yourself now to prevent you contracting an asbestos-related disease in the future. It is also important to remember that people who smoke and are also exposed to asbestos fibres are at a much greater risk of developing lung cancer. Asbestos can typically be found in sprayed coatings, thermal insulation, lagging, insulation boards, corrugated and flat sheeting, certain textured finishes, roof felts, and floor tiles.

It is not possible to determine if a material contains asbestos merely by looking at them. Special analysis is required.

1.2 Applicable Legislation

Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012

1.3 Procedure

Before any work commences, it is the duty of the Client to inform Forest Edge Construction of any hazards likely to cause harm to any employees or subcontractors. In addition, each site will be subject to a general health & safety assessment before any work commences so any suspicions can be questioned at this time.

All staff have/will have undergone Asbestos Awareness Training and are instructed that upon no circumstances shall work commence if there is suspicion of asbestos containing materials liable to expose employees or subcontractors to Asbestos fibres.

If in doubt, employees must stop work immediately and contact a company Director / works Supervisor

A specialist will be appointed to examine the suspected material, and any removal of asbestos will only be carried out by a licensed competent contractor.