

Circumstances where asbestos may be found

Asbestos can be found:

- in ceiling tiles;
- on corrugated asbestos roofs;
- in downpipes from gutters;
- in insulation around pipes;
- as sprayed asbestos around structural beams of buildings;
- in electrical panels;
- in internal walls; and
- in textured paints.

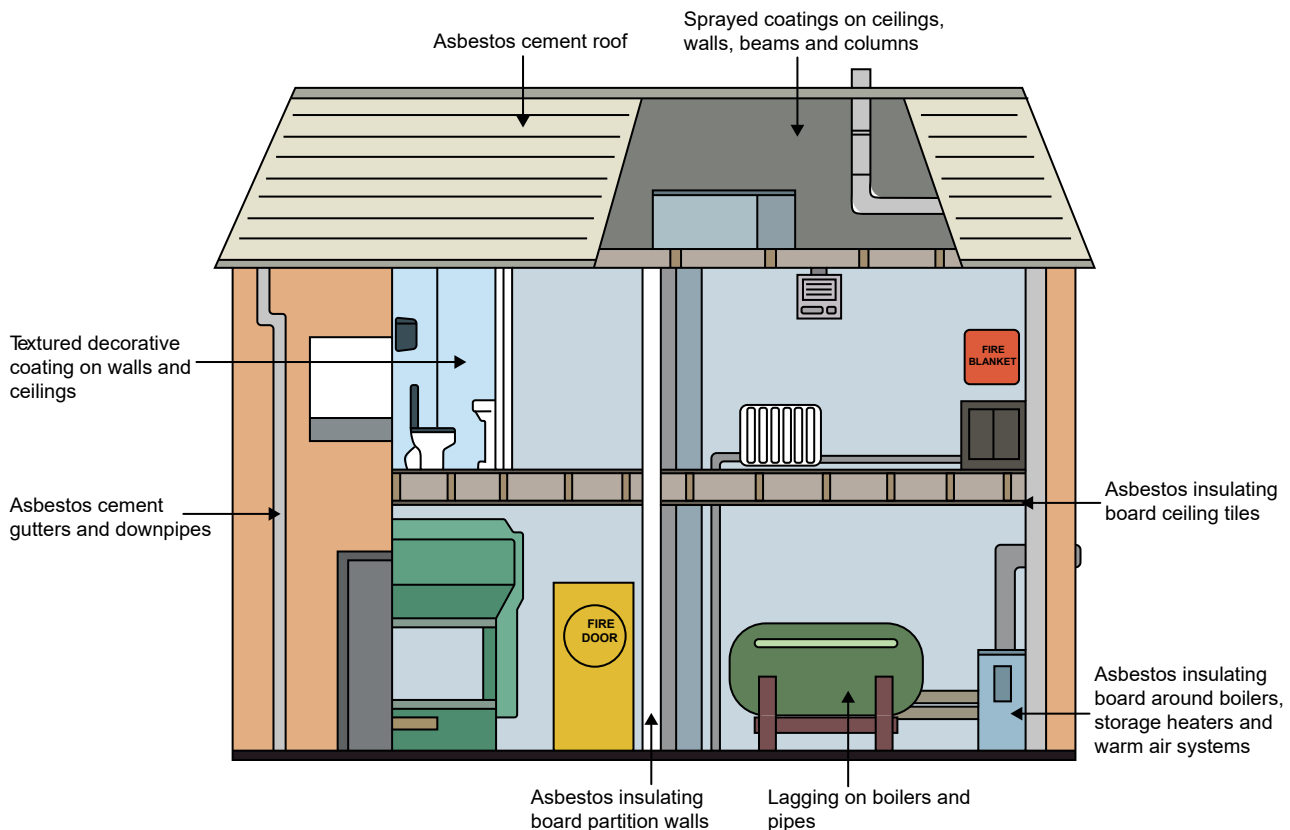


Figure 1: Where asbestos hides¹

Although the use of asbestos is banned in some countries (for example the United Kingdom), it is still a global issue, with production estimates for asbestos-containing materials at around 2.03 million tonnes per year on average.² Countries such as Russia, China, India, Indonesia and Kazakhstan still mine, produce or import asbestos.³ The use of asbestos in these countries is typically within construction, textiles, brake pads and insulation.⁴

Even in countries where the use of asbestos is banned, asbestos is still likely to be present in older buildings. That means it is likely to be encountered by anyone who disturbs, renovates, maintains or alters parts of buildings. For example, an organisation may wish to knock down an internal partition wall in an old building. This could cause considerable release of asbestos fibres.

Due to the hazardous nature of the material and the strict regulations governing its handling, specialist contractors are typically employed to remove asbestos. These professionals are specially trained and certified to carry out asbestos removal safely, using controlled procedures and protective equipment to minimise exposure.