

**Asbestos in your home**

**What is asbestos?**

Asbestos refers to a group of minerals composed of thin fibres which have excellent heat resisting and insulating properties.

**Is asbestos dangerous?**

Asbestos isn’t a risk to health if it is undamaged and undisturbed. A fine dust can be released when asbestos containing materials are damaged. If these fibres are inhaled they can gradually damage lungs over time, leading to serious illness.

**Is there asbestos in my home?**

The use of asbestos was banned in new UK properties in 1999. Asbestos containing materials are common in homes built before 2000 but will not be present in homes built after 2000.

If we know that there is asbestos in your home we will tell you when you move in or after a survey.

**Where could asbestos be?**

Asbestos can be found in many fixtures and fittings including vinyl floor tiles, access panels, lagging and insulation.

**How does Poplar HARCA monitor asbestos?**

We inspect asbestos in the shared parts of buildings every year. We also carry out asbestos surveys before major works such as kitchen replacements and when a property is empty.

We keep a list of all the asbestos containing items that we know exist in our buildings including details of their location, type and condition.

**How do I book an appointment for a survey?**

If a survey needs to be carried out in your home we will contact you to arrange a convenient appointment.

**How should I prepare for the visit?**

You will need to make sure that the operative can access all the areas they need to. This may mean that you need to move some belongings.

**Will somebody need to be at home?**

Yes. Somebody over the age of 18 will need to be at home for the visit.

**How long will the survey take?**

The visit will usually take about 30 minutes to 1 hour depending on the size of your home.

**What will the operative do during the visit?**

They will check every room for items that contain asbestos and assess their condition. If the operative isn’t sure whether or not an item contains asbestos, they will safely take a small sample so it can be analysed in the laboratory. If they can’t access an area they will assume that asbestos is present.

**What will happen if a problem is found?**

If the asbestos is found to be damaged we will arrange for it to be made safe (encapsulated) or removed. We will talk through any works that are needed and will explain the steps that we will take to make sure that you are not at risk.

**Can you remove all asbestos containing materials in my home please?**

Asbestos is not dangerous unless it is disturbed or damaged, so asbestos containing materials that are in good condition do not need to be removed.

**How can I make sure that asbestos in my home stays safe?**

* Be aware of the materials in your home that might contain asbestos and avoid doing anything that could damage or disturb them
* Tell us straight away if you accidentally disturb or damage asbestos
* If your home was built before 2000, talk to us before you do DIY especially if it involves drilling, sanding, replacing flooring etc

**What should I do if I disturb asbestos in my home or if I’m worried about its condition?**

Contact us as quickly as possible on 0800 035 1991 if you disturb asbestos in your home. Wherever possible, close the door and do not allow anybody to access the area containing the damaged asbestos while you seek advice.