

## Information on handling asbestos:

### Demolition, renovation and repair work on materials containing asbestos by private individuals

Status: December 2019

#### May demolition, renovation and repair work on materials containing asbestos be carried out by private individuals?

In principle, demolition, renovation and repair work on asbestos products may also be carried out by private individuals. However, private individuals generally do not have sufficient expertise or experience in handling asbestos to meet the high requirements for minimising the release of fibres. It is therefore always in your own interest to commission an asbestos specialist company to carry out work on materials containing asbestos, as this is the only way to ensure that, as far as possible, no harmful asbestos fibres are released. Not just for the sake of your own health and the protection of your neighbours, but also in view of the consequences under criminal law, we strongly advise against carrying out work on asbestos yourself.

#### Strictly forbidden: What activities involving materials containing asbestos are prohibited?

The following legal prohibitions must be observed when handling asbestos:

- Work that results in the removal of the surface of asbestos products is strictly prohibited. The only exceptions are low-emission processes recognised by the authorities and employers' liability insurance associations. Building components that contain asbestos must never be cleaned with hard equipment such as **high-pressure cleaners, wire brushes, hard bristle brooms or shot blasting machines**. Activities such as **grinding or drilling** are also prohibited.
- **Cleaning or coating work on uncoated** asbestos cement roofs and wall claddings is generally **not permitted**. This also applies if the coating of roofing that was originally coated has been removed, e.g. due to weathering.
- **Covering, superstructure and elevation work** may **not** be carried out on asbestos cement roofs and wall claddings. This prohibition also applies to the installation of photovoltaic and thermal solar panels on asbestos-cement roofs.
- Asbestos products **must not be broken, sawed or cut with an angle grinder**. Asbestos products that have been removed may also **not be thrown**.
- Materials containing asbestos that have been removed may not be **reused or otherwise brought into circulation** but **must be disposed of**. Any handling of materials containing asbestos is prohibited. This includes not just their use (e.g. as a cover for firewood) but also giving away, selling and even the storage of asbestos products.

**Any violation of this prohibition is a criminal offence and may be punished by imprisonment for up to five years or by severe fines!**

If you discover any violations of these regulations (e.g. in your neighbourhood), you must call the police on 110. The Nuremberg Trade Supervisory Board, as the competent authority, should also be informed.

## What other requirements have to be observed for demolition, renovation and repair work on building components containing asbestos by private individuals?

If demolition, renovation and repair work on building components containing asbestos is carried out by private individuals on their own initiative, the same principle applies as for the commercial sector: it must always be ensured that the lives and health of other people are not endangered. The release or spread of asbestos fibres must be prevented as far as possible. Failure to do so may result, not just in official orders to cease the work, but also in criminal prosecution and claims for damages under private law.

With regard to dust minimisation and hazard prevention, private individuals must take protective measures that are just as effective as those for commercial work. Based on the regulations for commercial enterprises according to TRGS 519 (Technical Rules for Hazardous Substances), it is therefore strongly recommended to take the following precautions:

- Uncoated asbestos cement products must be sprayed with dust-binding agents before their removal or dismantling; during the work they must be kept constantly moist. Coated asbestos cement products may only be removed in a dry state in exceptional cases, when the coating is complete and an increased release of fibres is not expected. For (your own) safety, however, asbestos cement products should generally always be moistened and sprayed with dust binding agents during work.
- The work should be carried out by hand if possible. If the use of machines is indispensable, only slow-running machines with suction devices may be used.
- It must be ensured that all windows and doors in the vicinity of the work area are closed.
- Any dust must be extracted at the point of origin, e.g. with an industrial vacuum cleaner approved for demolition, renovation and repair work. If machines are used for the work, an extraction system is indispensable. Surfaces of the substructure (e.g. slats) that have been contaminated by dust containing asbestos must also be carefully cleaned by vacuuming with an approved industrial vacuum cleaner or by damp wiping.
- After work has been carried out on roofs, gutters must be cleaned and then flushed. The water used for flushing must be disposed of as wastewater via the sewerage system.
- When working on exterior wall claddings made of asbestos cement products, suitable tarpaulins and sheets must be laid out to catch and collect bits that break off.
- The workplace and/or the surrounding area must be adequately isolated, e.g. with plastic sheeting. We recommend the affixing of warning signs or signs prohibiting access.
- The neighbourhood should be informed of the work in good time.
- Suitable protective equipment should be worn.
- Materials that have been removed must be kept moist.
- Materials temporarily stored at the construction site must be packed or covered so as to be dust-proof.

## Contacts

Information on working on products containing asbestos can be obtained from the **Nuremberg Trade Supervisory Board** using the following contact details:

Regierung von Mittelfranken  
Gewerbeaufsichtsamt, Dezernat 2  
Roonstr. 20, 90429 Nürnberg  
Telephone 0911/928-0, Fax 928-2999, E-mail [gewerbeaufsichtsamt@reg-mfr.bayern.de](mailto:gewerbeaufsichtsamt@reg-mfr.bayern.de)

For asbestos-related offences please call the police on 110.

### Further contacts in the City of Nuremberg for private individuals:

#### Building authorities (construction works)

Telephone: 0911 / 231-3000  
Fax: 231-3010  
E-mail: [bob@stadt.nuernberg.de](mailto:bob@stadt.nuernberg.de)

#### Environmental office (waste disposal, consulting)

Environm. telephone: 0911 / 231- 2304  
Fax: 231-2583  
E-mail: [uwa2@stadt.nuernberg.de](mailto:uwa2@stadt.nuernberg.de)

#### Waste management operation of the City of Nuremberg (disposal)

Telephone: 0911 / 231- 4025  
Fax: 231-8360  
E-mail: [angelika.zeretzke@stadt.nuernberg.de](mailto:angelika.zeretzke@stadt.nuernberg.de)