



## Our responsibilities

Where we know about any asbestos in your home we will ensure that any asbestos-containing material is maintained in a safe condition. Please do not try to remove any asbestos-containing material yourself. Any asbestos-containing material left in your home will be in good condition. It will be covered or out of reach, so that removal will not be necessary. We are legally required to hold a register of where asbestos has been identified and continually update this through ongoing surveys. The law does not currently extend to individual homes. However, as a responsible landlord, we undertake detailed asbestos surveys of our homes when we carry out improvement works and when we upgrade empty homes. This information is recorded in our asbestos register, so that we can let you know of any risks you may be exposed to.

## Contact Information

### Tenant Services – Asset Management

Stroud District Council  
Ebley Mill  
Ebley Wharf  
Stroud  
GL5 4UB

Email: [housing.repairs@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:housing.repairs@stroud.gov.uk)  
Repairs 01453 754852 – option 1

### Ebley Mill Reception desk opening hours:

Monday-Thursday: 8.45am – 5.00pm  
Friday 8.45am – 4.30pm

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If English is not your first language and you need a translation, we can get one for you

Polish: Jeżeli język angielski nie jest Twoim językiem ojczystym i wymagasz tłumaczenia, możemy to zapewnić.

Portuguese: Se o Inglês não é a sua língua materna e precisa de uma tradução, nós podemos obtê-la.

I am a Council tenant

# The facts about asbestos



Stroud District Council  
Ebley Mill  
Ebley Wharf  
Stroud  
GL5 4UB  
Tel: 01453 766321

Where it may be used  
and what to do if you find it

# Asbestos: the facts

This leaflet addresses concerns and questions about asbestos in the home, it is usually NOT a serious problem. This leaflet is a reference guide, although it does contain important safety information.

## What is asbestos?

Asbestos is a natural mineral (a fibrous silicate) found in rocks all over the world. It has been used commercially for about 150 years because it is strong, flexible and stable. This has led to its use in a wide range of building materials and products.

## Are there any health risks?

Asbestos-containing material that is undamaged does not present a health risk, but if asbestos materials are damaged, drilled, sawn, scrubbed or sanded, there can be a risk.

When asbestos-containing material is damaged, fibres can be released into the air, sometimes getting into the lungs where they may stay for a long time. This may cause thickening of the lungs and eventually cancer. The level of risk depends on how easily the fibres are released, the type of asbestos contained within the material, the length of exposure and the amount of damage to the actual material.

## Is everyone exposed to asbestos?

There are asbestos-containing materials in about 5.5 million buildings in the UK. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE is a government agency to prevent ill health) says that there is a very low

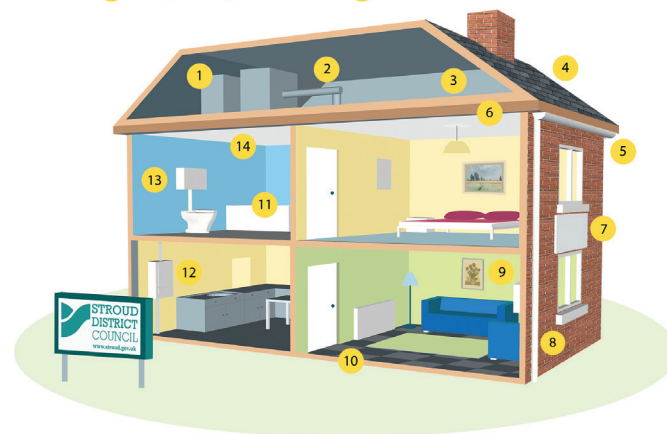
level of asbestos fibres in the air generally. Exposure to this level of fibres is unlikely to harm people's health. Levels of fibres may be higher in buildings containing asbestos materials, especially where materials are damaged. It is very unlikely that the levels will be harmful, but if you have damaged asbestos material in your home, you should seek advice on the appropriate action to take.

## Where could I find asbestos?

Building materials containing asbestos were widely used from 1950 to around 1999, particularly from the 1960's onwards. So houses and flats built or refurbished around this time may contain asbestos materials. Asbestos was banned in the UK in 1999.

### Where Asbestos could be found in a typical Home (built before 2000)

- |                                 |                                   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Water tank                    | 8 Rainwater pipes                 |
| 2 Pipe lagging                  | 9 Fuse box                        |
| 3 House insulation              | 10 Vinyl floor tiles              |
| 4 Asbestos cement products      | 11 Bath panel                     |
| 5 Guttering                     | 12 Boiler housing                 |
| 6 Soffit boards (roof overhang) | 13 Toilet cistern                 |
| 7 Wall panelling                | 14 Textured coatings (e.g. Artex) |



*If you think asbestos-containing materials may be in your home, don't panic!*

*Asbestos in good condition will not release asbestos fibres. There is no danger unless the fibres are released and inhaled into the lungs.*

## Dos and Don'ts

- ✓ Do check material regularly if you suspect it may contain asbestos.
- ✗ Don't touch it, but look for signs of wear and tear, such as scratches, scuffs or water damage. If you notice any damage or deterioration please tell us.
- ✓ Do make sure you get our permission before making any changes or adaptations to the structure or fabric of your home or when carrying out any work that may disturb an asbestos-containing material. This is for your safety – without checking with us first you may be putting yourself, your family or those carrying out work at risk of exposure to asbestos.
- You may also have to pay the costs of dealing with any asbestos-incident caused.
- ✗ Don't drill, cut or disturb asbestos-containing materials.
- ✗ Don't scrape or sand asbestos-containing materials before decorating.

If you are worried about possible asbestos in your home, or if you would like us to carry out a survey before you carry out any work, please contact us on: 01453 754852 option 1 or email [housing.repairs@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:housing.repairs@stroud.gov.uk)