

# BE ASBESTOS AWARE

## CHECK POINTS

- There are two types of asbestos: friable asbestos can be pulverised; non-friable asbestos cannot
- Homeowners are permitted to remove small amounts of non-friable asbestos but it is safest to leave the job to a licensed removalist
- At least one in three Australian homes contains asbestos. This includes brick, fibro, clad, and weatherboard residences
- Asbestos-containing products include fibro sheeting, water, drainage and flue pipes, floor and wall coverings, guttering and roofing shingles
- There are laws governing asbestos management, removal and disposal. The cost of disposal is often included in the removal price

## DON'T PUT YOUR LIFE AT RISK

Rebecca Isaacs

NOVEMBER is Asbestos Awareness month so there's no better time to get educated about how to stay safe at home.

"Look at the vintage of the structure you live in; that's a good indication of whether it is likely to contain asbestos," an asbestos removalist at Beasy Pty Ltd, Bret Baker, said.

"Anything prior to 1987 could likely contain it."

But don't assume that your house is asbestos free if built after that time.

"There have been recently imported materials – wall tiles, for example – that contain asbestos. It comes up on the news and then disappears; people forget about it."

The president of the Asbestos Education Committee, Peter Duphy, recommended a three-point plan for staying safe in the home.

"First, visit the Asbestos Awareness website to suss out what types of materials you may need to be aware of," he said.

"Second, if you are planning on doing renovation or demolition, hire a registered asbestos assessor to develop a management plan.

"Then, if you do need to get asbestos removed, visit the Safe Work NSW website for a list of licensed removalists," Mr Duphy said.

"I think the most important thing is for people to be aware."

Visit: [asbestosawareness.com.au](http://asbestosawareness.com.au)



Asbestos removalist Bret Baker in protection gear. Picture: ROBERT POZO

## WHAT TO ASK THE REMOVALIST

- Are you a licensed asbestos assessor?
- Are you a licensed asbestos removalist?
- Will you be wearing the correct protective clothing and mask or breathing apparatus?
- How do you plan on keeping my family safe while you remove the material from my house?
- Do you comply with asbestos disposal regulations?

## DOS AND DON'TS

**DO:** Before doing any maintenance, renovation or demolition work, hire an asbestos assessor to make sure the area is safe to work on.

**DON'T:** Be prepared to only pay a certain amount. Every asbestos removal job is different and prices fluctuate because of this.

**Additions and alterations**

If it's worth extending, it's worth Addbuild.

Extension specialists for over 30 years – design and construct. Call for an obligation free quote

**8765 1555**

**Addbuild ADDITIONS**

addbuild.com.au Bld Lic: 1148510

**Air-conditioning services**

**Bathroom renovating services**

**LouvrLAT®**

**LOCAL ELECTRICIAN**

**FAST & RELIABLE**

Senior Discounts & Cards Welcomed **FAST 24/7**

Lifetime Guarantee - Same Day Service

**\$50 OFF** Any Electrical Service

Switchboard Upgrades  
Lighting  
Powerpoints  
Repairs & Maintenance  
Cooling

**SERVICE TODAY**

**0420 102 134**