

What is asbestos?

Information and advice





What is asbestos?

Asbestos is a naturally occurring fibrous material which was regularly used in the construction industry from the 1950s to the mid 1980s.

For a long time the dangers of asbestos were not widely known and in 1999 all uses of asbestos were banned in the UK.

What are the health risks?

Asbestos can only pose a risk to health if the fibres become airborne and are breathed in.

The most common diseases associated with asbestos exposure are asbestosis, lung cancer and mesothelioma.

Contents

- What is asbestos? **3**
- How can you reduce the risk? **4**
- What will we do? **7**
- Contact **8**

How you can reduce the risk

Don't carry out any work prior to receiving our permission. If you don't know what a material is made from, assume that it contains asbestos.

If you think you may have damaged or disturbed asbestos, contact us.

In your home

Asbestos fibres can only affect your health if they become damaged, either accidentally or while they are being worked on during building work or DIY.

Before carrying out DIY work always seek our advice and permission; you must not carry out any work prior to receiving our permission.

Written requests will need to be sent to our Housing team outlining the work you wish to complete and the affected areas in the property.

If you think you have asbestos in your home, don't panic. Contact us and we will discuss the best way to deal with it.





What will we do?

Grand Union recognises the risk associated with asbestos and acknowledges our responsibility to reduce the exposure of asbestos.

We have a management plan to make sure we take appropriate action to identify and deal with materials containing asbestos in your home.

When you report damaged asbestos in our properties we will respond as soon as possible and will remove or repair any damaged asbestos.

We will not normally remove asbestos-containing materials that are in good condition.

If you ever suspect damaged asbestos in your property or a communal area, contact us and we will arrange for a licensed contractor to attend.

To find out more, including where asbestos can be found, visit our website:

www.guhg.co.uk

Do you need the information in this leaflet in a different format?

Please contact us on **0300 123 5544** to discuss your specific requirements.

Equality and diversity

Grand Union Housing Group has a responsibility to ensure that equal opportunity and effective management of diversity are at the core of its business. We set targets to deliver services that are responsive to the needs of communities and individuals, and promote social inclusion.



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