**Template Email Text – Residential Focus**

NAME –

**Asbestos lurks in more places than you’d think.**

Did you know if your home was built before the 1990s there’s a good chance it has some asbestos?

Did you know it’s often found *under flooring, as part of kitchen splashbacks or even in the garden*?

[change locations as desired]

National Asbestos Awareness Week 2020 reminds Australians to be asbestos aware before starting any work around the home - because it lurks in more places than you’d think.

**Know the risks.**

Don't risk the possible health effects of asbestos exposure.

Asbestos becomes dangerous once the fibres are disturbed, become airborne and then inhaled. This can happen if you’re sanding, drilling, cutting or sawing asbestos-containing materials.

Asbestos is a known carcinogen and inhaling asbestos fibres can cause a number of life-threatening diseases including pleural disease, asbestosis, mesothelioma and lung cancer.

Asbestos-related diseases cause approximately 4,000 deaths a year – three times the annual road toll.

**Be aware of where asbestos might be in your home.**

Asbestos was used in hundreds of building materials, commonly found in bathrooms, laundries, and kitchens as well as behind tiles and under flooring [change locations as suits audience].

Find out where asbestos might be here [link to your state’s asbestos website here – see below

for URL addresses]

Watch this video about asbestos in the home here. [https://vimeo.com/446981826]

**Call for some advice and help**

Thinking about a summer renovation? Make sure you’re aware of where asbestos might be found so you know how to stay safe.

Just like plumbing and electrical work, asbestos removal – or jobs around the home that might uncover asbestos - are jobs best left to the experts.

This Asbestos Awareness Week we are calling on Australians to **know** the health risk, be **aware** of

where asbestos might be found before starting work, and **call** a professional for advice and help.

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State and Territory Asbestos Websites to insert above:

NSW: [www.asbestos.nsw.gov.au](http://www.asbestos.nsw.gov.au)

VIC: [www.asbestos.vic.gov.au/](https://www.asbestos.vic.gov.au/)

QLD: [www.asbestos.qld.gov.au](http://www.asbestos.qld.gov.au)

TAS: [www.worksafe.tas.gov.au/asbestos-safety](http://www.worksafe.tas.gov.au/asbestos-safety)

ACT: [www.asbestos.act.gov.au](http://www.asbestos.act.gov.au)

SA: [www.asbestos.sa.gov.au](http://www.asbestos.sa.gov.au)

WA:[www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/asbestos-frequently-asked-questions](http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/asbestos-frequently-asked-questions)

NT: [www.asbestos.nt.gov.au](http://www.asbestos.nt.gov.au)

**Template Email Text – Workplace Focus**

NAME –

**Asbestos lurks in more places than you’d think.**

Did you know if a house was built or renovated before 1990, there is a **good chance** it has some asbestos.

Did you know it’s often found *under flooring, as part of kitchen splashbacks or even in the garden*? [change locations as desired]

This Asbestos Awareness Week, 23 – 29 November 2020, [your organisation here] is reminding tradies to be asbestos aware because it lurks in more places than you’d think.

Work health and safety (WHS) laws prohibit work involving asbestos apart from in specific circumstances where you are required to follow strict safety rules.

The law may also prevent you from removing asbestos yourself, and if you are allowed, you must follow strict safety precautions and use the right Personal Protective Equipment.

Commercial and public buildings built before a certain date are required to have an asbestos register – but that’s not the case for homes, even though they are often workplaces too.

Where might asbestos be in a home? You can find out here [link to state asbestos site, state WHS site or [www.asbestossafety.gov.au/find-out-about-asbestos/asbestos-home](http://www.asbestossafety.gov.au/find-out-about-asbestos/asbestos-home)]

Asbestos becomes dangerous once the fibres are disturbed, become airborne and then inhaled. This can happen if you’re sanding, drilling, cutting or sawing asbestos.

Asbestos is a known carcinogen and inhaling asbestos fibres can cause a number of life-threatening diseases including pleural disease, asbestosis, mesothelioma and lung cancer.

Don't risk the possible health effects of asbestos exposure. The World Health Organization says there is no known safe level of exposure to asbestos fibres.

Watch this video about asbestos exposure in the workplace here. [https://vimeo.com/446982099]

You wouldn’t do electrical wiring without training, the same is true for handling or removing any asbestos. It’s always safer – and usually cheaper too – to call in an asbestos professional.

Find out more about asbestos in the workplace here [link to WorkSafe / SafeWork in your state

or territory]

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Potential products to insert above, depending on your audience:

* Roofs, eaves, downpipes and insulation
* Interior walls (often with a non-asbestos covering on the outside)
* Kitchen splashbacks
* Under lino, some carpets, and tiles (and the cement compounds used to affix tiles)
* Lagging around pipes, inside fuse boxes or as part of ventilation shafts
* Fences, garden sheds and small outdoor construction like chicken coops
* As part of bonded cement compounds that make up walls – disturbed when you sand for painting