

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 or 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]

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