



Asbestos stocks and flows

In 2021 the [2015 Australian Stocks and Flows Model for Asbestos](#) was updated to reflect new information from literature and industry experts. It allows for updated annual estimates of:

- legacy asbestos remaining in the built environment (stocks); and
- quantities of Asbestos Containing Materials (ACMs) reaching the end of the productive life to waste or disuse (flows).

The national model provides best estimate results to examine asbestos stocks and flows, now and into the future. The model's estimated flows to waste do not include soil and rubble contaminated with ACMs, and so may differ to other waste reporting totals.

Stocks

After peaking in 1980 at around 11 million tonnes, ACM stocks are predicted to decline at just above 10% per decade. This modelling means, without significant intervention, ACM stocks will decline to around 1 million tonnes by 2060.

The graph below shows the composition of the of the estimated 6.4 million tonnes of Australia's asbestos legacy remaining in stocks in 2021. For example, flooring stocks are currently estimated at 14,500 tonnes.

Best estimates

1980



Australia's ACM stocks peaked at approximately 11 million tonnes.

2021



Current ACM stocks are estimated at approximately 6.4 million tonnes.

2030



ACM stocks are forecast at approximately 4.9 million tonnes. **ACM flows are forecast to peak at approximately 167,000 tonnes.**

Flows

Many asbestos products are starting to reach end of life. For example, many have been in the built environment for between 40 to 80 years.

Most ACMs reaching end of life would be taken to landfill, while some, for example asbestos cement water pipes, may be left *in situ* with regular monitoring.

2021 stock composition and links to further reading

