

2020-21 Annual Update

Asbestos waste data estimates for Australia are updated as part of national hazardous waste reporting. State and territory governments capture asbestos waste disposal data from their tracking systems. Data was provided by these governments from 2006-07 to 2020-21.

Data Limitations

States and territories record and report waste as 'asbestos waste' differently. Asbestos Containing Materials (ACMs) can be reported as wrapped ACM, and in categories such as waste or soil contaminated with ACM. For example, the ACT, SA, Tasmania and WA include only ACM (e.g. asbestos cement sheets), which is generally delivered to landfills as a package wrapped in plastic. Table 2 below summarises reported waste types collected.

National Trends



The long-term trend overall still appears to be rising levels of asbestos waste.



For example, asbestos waste in Australia has increased nationally from approximately **315,000** tonnes (in 2006-07), to **1.42 million** tonnes (in 2020-21). Most asbestos waste comes from renovation and urban development, and goes to landfill.



Building and demolition waste can also be contaminated with asbestos. Contaminated soil and rubble can be included in asbestos waste totals. Further details can be found also in the [Hazardous Waste in Australia 2021 report](#).

Table 1: Summary table of all reported asbestos waste from 2006-07 to 2020-21 (tonnes per annum). This includes wrapped ACM, soil and rubble contaminated with ACM; except blue cells, which are wrapped ACM only.

	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	Australia
2006-07	372	207,860	1,593	49,847	11,757	1,588	42,099	225	315,340
2007-08	24	211,184	1,639	44,772	17,602	1,009	35,768	5,947	317,944
2008-09	18,661	222,299	1,684	48,577	7,798	2,023	32,882	10,836	344,760
2009-10	170	227,936	1,712	67,598	5,916	332	50,543	12,286	366,492
2010-11	1,126	194,700	1,724	87,834	21,085	171	42,515	19,390	368,544
2011-12	4,757	207,300	1,758	101,048	22,828	14,917	61,050	12,100	425,757
2012-13	5,954	531,000	1,801	113,345	20,129	14,931	65,656	26,045	778,861
2013-14	6,680	420,000	1,810	120,728	15,991	14,972	74,046	29,237	683,464
2014-15	5,856	306,465	2,000	150,302	14,517	15,015	80,078	38,492	612,725
2015-16	68,405	508,156	5,982	145,102	9,224	15,085	101,636	38,724	892,314
2016-17	208,474	682,444	5,913	154,608	11,770	15,228	118,626	39,000	1,236,063
2017-18	94,293	1,158,050	5,225	149,873	17,302	5,059	154,520	31,886	1,616,207
2018-19	48,176	1,318,779	7,118	152,552	42,987	3,259	102,842	24,772	1,700,485
2019-20	17,741	899,444	17,435	154,918	35,694	4,094	178,670	24,165	1,332,162
2020-21	19,559	841,900	38,483	326,276	36,085	3,844	136,925	17,657	1,420,730

Table 2: 2020-21 data by waste type (tonnes)	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA
ACM only	19,559	225,006			36,085	3,844		17,657
Waste contaminated with ACM only		616,894						
ACM and waste contaminated with friable ACM				326,276				
ACM and waste contaminated with any ACM			38,483				136,925	