

# THINK TWICE ABOUT ASBESTOS

**ASBESTOS  
AWARENESS**  
WEEK  
November 20-26 2023

## What is asbestos?

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral that was used in many popular building products in Australia before eventually being banned in 2003.



**Asbestos-containing materials are still common in homes built before 1990.**

## Why is asbestos a problem?

When asbestos materials are damaged, deteriorating or disturbed (e.g. by breaking, cutting, drilling, sanding or burning it), they release invisible fibres into the air which can enter the body and cause life-threatening illness. These illnesses, like cancer, can take a long time to develop.

## How do I know if a material contains asbestos?

You can't tell if a material contains asbestos just by looking at it. Only scientific testing of a sample can confirm this. If you think a material might contain asbestos be safe and treat it like it is until you've had it confirmed by a professional.

## How can I keep safe around asbestos materials?

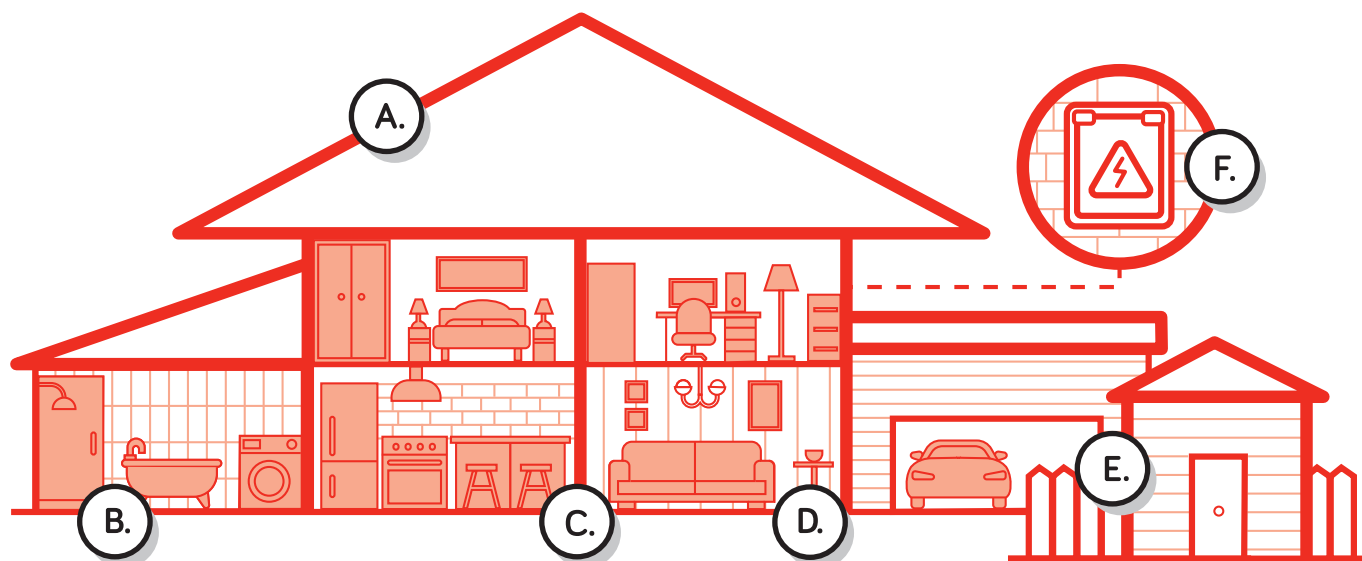
1. Find out whether your home was built before 1990. Asbestos was used in thousands of building materials at that time.
2. Don't damage or disturb asbestos materials. This can release dangerous asbestos fibres into the air.
3. Contact a licensed asbestos professional for advice on where it's located, and on how to manage or remove it.



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## Where can it be found in the home?



### A. Exterior

Roof sheeting, gutters, downpipes, ridge capping, imitation brick cladding and lining under eaves.

### B. Bathroom, toilet and laundry

Wall and ceiling panels, vinyl floor tiles and backing for wall tiles.

### C. Kitchen

Wall and ceiling panels, backing for splashbacks, vinyl floor tiles, backing of vinyl flooring and insulation in stoves.

### D. Living areas

Wall and ceiling panels, carpet underlay and insulation in domestic heaters.

### E. Backyard

Fences, garden sheds, garages, carports, outdoor toilets, dog kennels, buried and dumped waste materials.

### F. Other areas

Backing of electrical switchboards, insulation in roof cavities, hot water pipe insulation, textured paint and plaster patching compounds.

## Where can I find out more information about asbestos?

Please visit [asbestossafety.gov.au](http://asbestossafety.gov.au)



Australian Government  
Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency