

Home Improvement survey results

In August 2021, the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency engaged SEC Newgate Australia to conduct an online survey with 'home improvers' to evaluate asbestos knowledge, attitudes and behaviours.

A home improver is anyone undertaking home improvement projects from small maintenance or improvements to large renovations – including those who outsource all or some of the project.

This factsheet contains the key findings for SA with n=106 participants (7% of total sample size n=1,506).

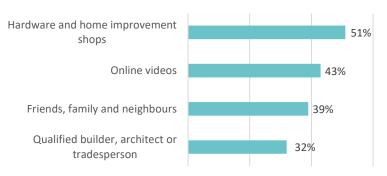
DIYers vs. Outsourcers



Sources of inspiration



Sources of information







Home Improver segments

Participants were divided into five distinct home improver segments* as listed below in order of most vulnerable to least vulnerable.

24% Financially vulnerable DIYers

9% Multicultural young urbanites

6% Well-heeled DIY enthusiasts

12% Financially comfortable families

49% Cautious older outsourcers

* Refer to the final report – Asbestos Safety and Home Improvement Research 2021 for more information on these distinct segments.



Obligation for disclosure

SA participants largely agree the following should be obliged to provide asbestos safety information:

88% A qualified builder or tradesperson

86% Local council

82% Hardware and home improvement shops (e.g. Bunnings, Mitre 10)

81% State/territory government



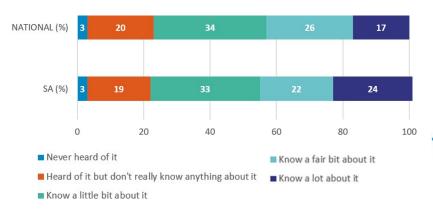
Asbestos disposal

23% of SA participants indicated that they encountered material containing asbestos during their home improvement project/s.
92% engaged in proper disposal methods with 9% admitting to improper disposal.



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Knowledge of ACMs when it comes to home improvement projects

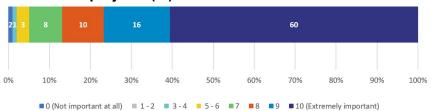


Perceived likelihood and severity of risk of ACMs

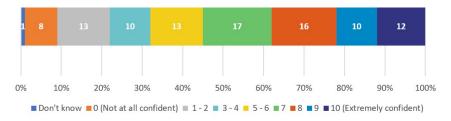


Sentiment towards asbestos

The importance of knowing about managing asbestos in projects (%)



Confidence in their own ability to identify materials or situations that could potentially contain asbestos (%)







9% of SA participants spontaneously mentioned asbestos as a potential risk when planning a home improvement project. The national statistic is 6%.

Identifying asbestos

The most common unprompted and prompted suggestions where ACMs could be encountered:

Unprompted - Walls/wall sheeting (41%), roofing/roof sheeting (25%), older homes/building/outbuildings (18%) and ceiling/ceiling plaster (18%).

Prompted - Wall and ceiling panels (77%), insulation in roof cavities (62%), insulation in stoves and domestic heaters (50%) and outbuildings (e.g. garden sheds, garages, carports, outdoor toilets, dog kennels) (50%).

Overall, 95% of responses selected materials that could contain asbestos, however 20% of responses incorrectly selected materials that do not contain asbestos.



Contact us

If you would like to receive further information on the data presented in this factsheet please contact us at

enquiries@asbestossafety.gov.au