



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 from the national sample size n= 1,506 participants.



Home Improver segments

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

27% Financially vulnerable DIYers

21% Multicultural young urbanites

8% Well-heeled DIY enthusiasts

16% Financially comfortable families

28% 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

Participants **largely agree the following should be obliged to provide asbestos safety information:**

87% A qualified builder or tradesperson

85% Local council

82% State/territory

79% Australian federal government

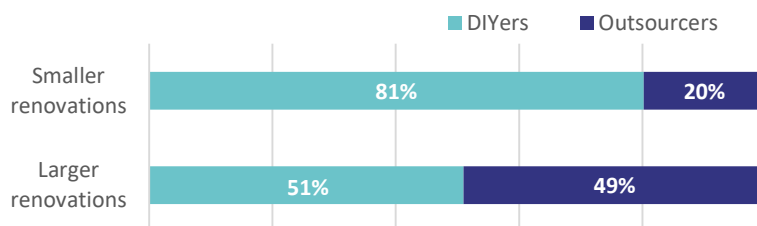
78% Hardware and home improvement shops (e.g. Bunnings, Mitre 10)



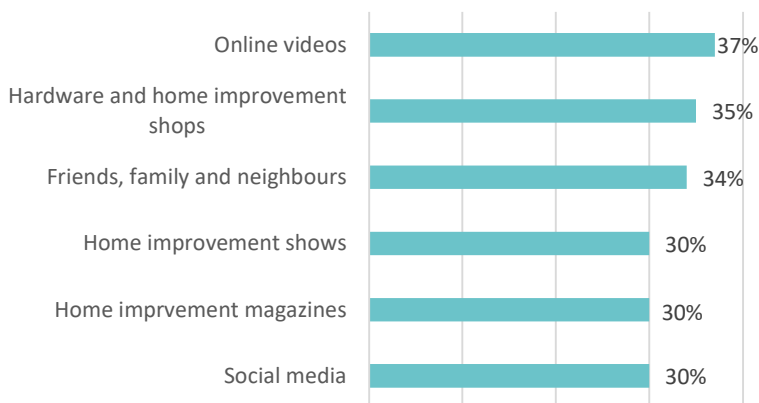
Asbestos disposal

21% of participants indicated that they **encountered material containing asbestos during their home improvement project/s**. **80%** engaged in **proper disposal methods** with **28%** admitting to **improper disposal**.

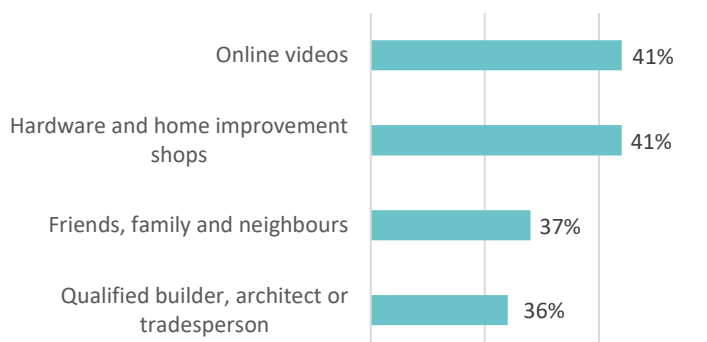
DIYers vs. Outsourcers



Sources of inspiration



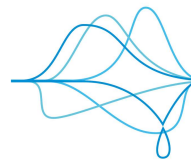
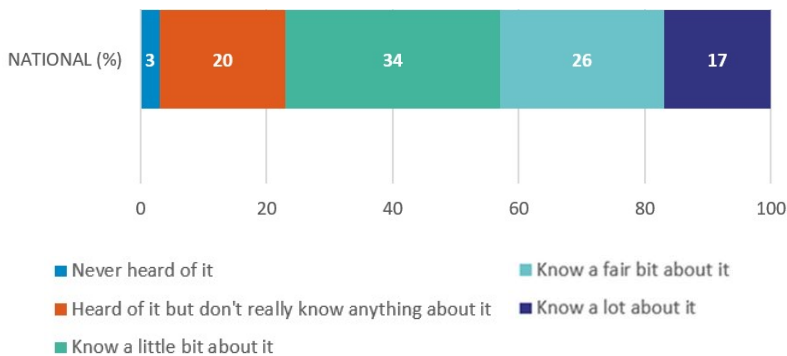
Sources of information





Home Improvement survey results

Knowledge of ACMs when it comes to home improvement projects



Asbestos National Strategic Plan

Implementation
2019–23



ACMs and home improvement projects

Only **6%** of participants spontaneously mentioned asbestos as a potential risk when planning a home improvement project.



Identifying asbestos

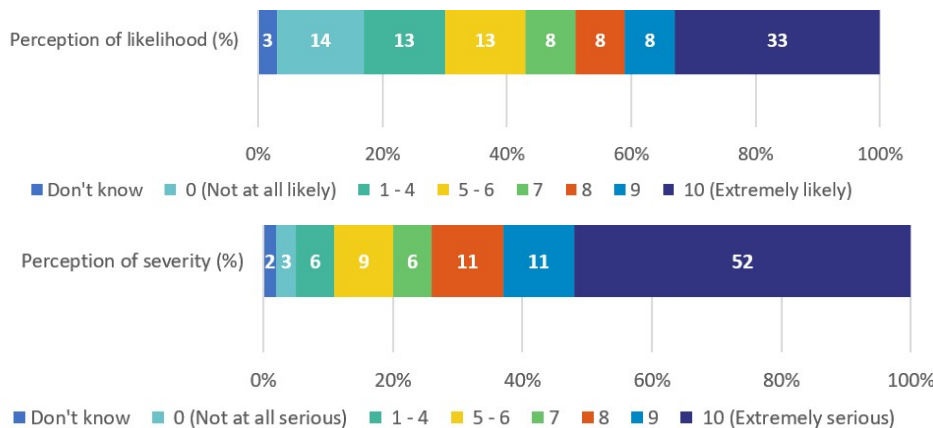
The most common unprompted and prompted suggestions where ACMs could be encountered:

Unprompted - Walls/wall sheeting (38%), roofing/roof sheeting (25%), older homes/building/outbuildings (17%) and ceiling/ceiling plaster (12%).

Prompted - Wall and ceiling panels (64%), insulation in roof cavities (52%), roof sheeting or ridge capping (44%) and outbuildings (e.g. garden sheds, garages, carports, outdoor toilets, dog kennels) (42%).

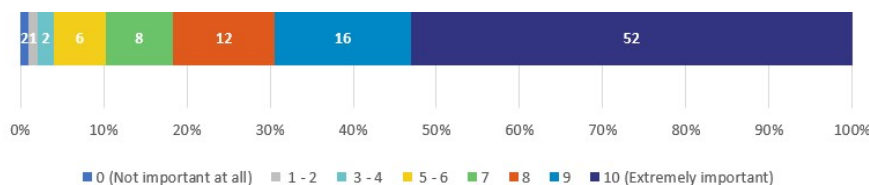
Overall, **92%** of responses selected materials that could contain asbestos, however **18%** of responses incorrectly selected materials that do not contain asbestos.

Perceived likelihood and severity of risk of ACMs

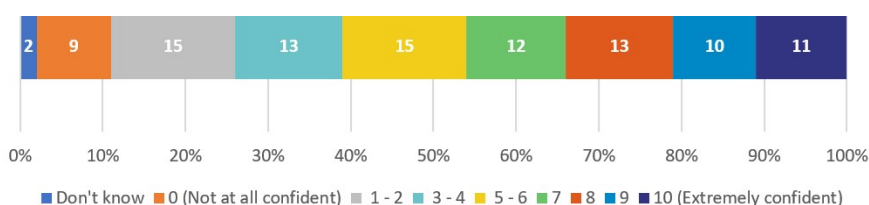


Sentiment towards asbestos

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



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



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.