

# em3

## asbestos essentials

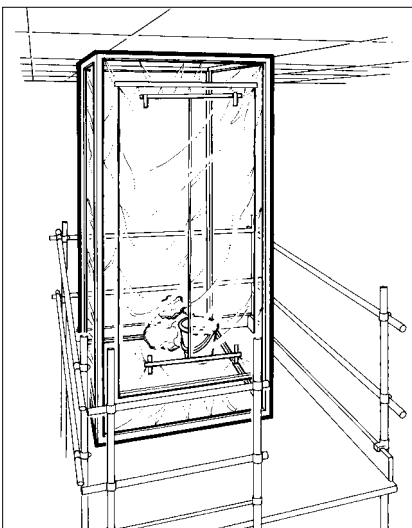
### Non-licensed tasks

This information will help employers and the self-employed to comply with the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006.

It is also useful for trade union and employee safety representatives. Only carry out this work if you are properly trained and have the right equipment.

#### Remember:

- Asbestos fibres can cause lung cancer and lung diseases.
- Plan carefully - do you need an HSE licence to do this work?



# Building and dismantling a mini-enclosure

## Equipment and method sheet

### What this sheet covers

This sheet describes how to build a mini-enclosure. It applies to minor work with asbestos insulating board (AIB).

It does not apply to building full enclosures for work that must be carried out by an HSE-licensed contractor.

**Caution:** A 'mini-enclosure' only prevents asbestos spreading. It does not prevent or control exposures while you are doing the task.

### Equipment

- A proprietary 'mini-enclosure', or a home-made 'mini enclosure' using 1000-gauge polythene sheeting, duct tape and masking tape, and timber or other materials for the frame;
- smoke tubes;
- sealant, eg Polyvinyl acetate (PVA);
- garden type sprayer;
- bucket of water;
- rags for wiping;
- Class H vacuum cleaner (BS EN 60335) - see sheet em4; and
- asbestos waste container, eg labelled polythene sack.

### Preparing the work area

- Ensure safe access.
- Close doors. Use warning tape or notices to alert other people.

### Building the enclosure

- Where possible, use a proprietary mini-enclosure as these are quicker and easier to erect - see 'More help'.
- Alternatively use timber or other materials to build a frame.
- Make the enclosure large enough to do the work safely.
- Attach the polythene sheeting inside the frame with duct tape. This minimises cleaning.
- Attach the polythene sheeting to the ceiling with masking tape only. Attach it to non-asbestos surfaces with duct tape.

**Caution:** Never use duct tape or spray adhesive on AIB. This will cause damage during dismantling.

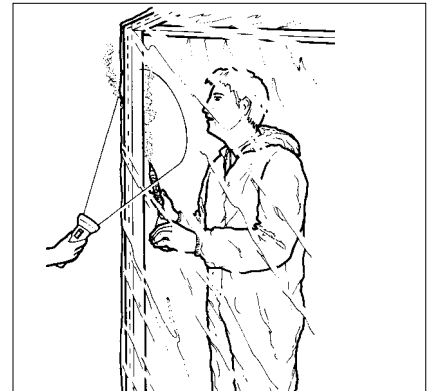
- Make an entry slit in one wall of the enclosure and reinforce this with duct tape.

### MORE HELP

- **Licensed asbestos contractors, and training providers** - HSE's Infoline  
Tel: 0845 345 0055  
Textphone: 0845 408 9577  
e-mail: [hse.infoline@natbrit.com](mailto:hse.infoline@natbrit.com)  
and at [www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/licensing/index.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/licensing/index.htm)
- **HSE priced and free publications** -  
HSE Books Tel: 01787 881165  
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- **More asbestos pictures** -  
[www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/gallery.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/gallery.htm)
- **Trade associations** - the Asbestos  
Removal Contractors Association  
(ARCA) Tel: 01283 531126  
Website: [www.arcaweb.org.uk](http://www.arcaweb.org.uk), or the  
Asbestos Control and Abatement  
Division (ACAD) Tel: 01325 466704
- **Disposal of asbestos waste** -  
[www.environment-agency.co.uk](http://www.environment-agency.co.uk),  
[www.sepa.org.uk/](http://www.sepa.org.uk/), or  
[www.netregs.gov.uk/netregs](http://www.netregs.gov.uk/netregs).
- These equipment and method  
sheets and task (a) sheets can be  
downloaded free from [www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/essentials/index.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/essentials/index.htm)
- See sheet a0 for details of more  
guidance



*Put the equipment you need inside the enclosure before you start.*



*Test the enclosure for leaks with a smoke test*

- Attach a polythene sheet above the entry slit, to cover it.
- Check all enclosures for leaks with smoke tubes.
- Release smoke at the seals inside the enclosure. Someone else must check for leaks outside.
- Seal all leaks.
- Put all tools for the task - bucket of water, rags, sprayer, vacuum cleaner nozzle and hose, etc inside the enclosure.

### Enclosure dismantling

- Work carefully - prevent asbestos escaping.
- Clean the enclosed area with the Class H vacuum cleaner.
- Clean the equipment and polythene sheeting with damp rags.
- Decontaminate yourself - see sheet em8.
- Inspect the enclosure visually - is it properly clean?
- Spray the polythene sheeting with PVA sealant.
- Remove the sheeting from the framework and put it in the asbestos waste container.
- Remove your protective equipment and dispose of it.
- Tape the container closed. Put it in a clear bag with an asbestos sign.
- If the framework is clean and was fully protected, you can re-use it.

### Information for others

- Tell all other workers that may be nearby what you are doing, where and why.
- Tell them about other risks from the work, eg changes in fire exits.

This guidance is issued by the Health and Safety Executive. Following the guidance is not compulsory and you are free to take other action. But if you do follow the guidance you will normally be doing enough to comply with the law. Health and safety inspectors seek to secure compliance with the law and may refer to this guidance as illustrating good practice.

This document is available at [www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/essentials/index.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/essentials/index.htm)

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