

Asbestos!

It's not just dangerous, it's deadly. It's time to manage the risk!!

Ballymoney Borough Council is working closely with local Businesses to raise the awareness of the legal duty to manage asbestos in premises. Here are a few facts about asbestos...

What is asbestos?

Asbestos is a soft mineral rock consisting of tiny fibres that can be released into the air when asbestos containing materials are cut, sawn, drilled, damaged or deteriorated. If inhaled, asbestos fibres can penetrate deep into the lungs where they can cause disease.

Is it dangerous?

Asbestos is recognised as the greatest single cause of work-related deaths in Northern Ireland, resulting in approximately 90 deaths each year. Although it is now illegal to use asbestos in the construction and refurbishment of buildings, in the past, it had been used extensively in the building industry where asbestos cement products (corrugated roofing, pipes), thermal insulation and fire proofing were widely employed. Much of this asbestos is still in place in buildings, therefore if not adequately managed it will continue to be an issue for many years to come.

Who is most at risk?

Persons who may inadvertently disturb asbestos containing materials while working in buildings are considered now to be most at risk from exposure to asbestos, for example, electricians, plumbers, maintenance workers, joiners, computer engineers and even cleaners.

Asbestos is not only found in workplaces it is present with in the home.

How can we reduce the risks?

To prevent exposure to asbestos, duty holders in control of repairs and maintenance in premises are required by law to identify all asbestos containing materials on their premises, assess the risks from the asbestos containing material and prepare a management plan, implement the plan and to review it regularly. They must also inform anyone intending to carry out work on the building that asbestos is present and that appropriate precautions must be taken.

Are there any regulations for dealing with asbestos?

Yes. All work activity involving disturbance of asbestos containing material is strictly governed by the Control of Asbestos Regulation (NI) 2007. There are

also Codes of Practice and guidance, which describe the most effective ways of dealing with asbestos.

[Who can provide help and advice on the regulations for dealing with asbestos?](#)

Details of the law and guidance relating to asbestos management can be obtained from the following sources:

Ballymoney Borough Council
Borough Services Directorate
Riada House
14 Charles Street
Ballymoney
BT53 6DZ

Tel. 028 27 660 257

Email: healthandsafety@ballymoney.gov.uk

Asbestos Advisory Service
HSE (NI)
83 Ladas Drive
Belfast BT6 9FR
Free phone 0800 0320 121
Email: asbestos@detini.gsi.gov.uk
HSE (NI) website: www.hseni.gov.uk