



What?

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral that has been used for thousands of years

It consists of fibrous material; these fibres are invisible to the naked eye

It is used to reinforce or thermally/acoustically benefit building products such as:-

- Boarding, lagging, gaskets
- Textured coating, paper
- Cement
- Insulation etc.

Why?

- The size of the fibres means that it can penetrate and lodge in the deepest parts of the lung
- These fibres can be released into the air when Asbestos Containing Materials (ACMs) are disturbed
- Over time these fibres can cause cancer or lung fibrosis, ingestion can also cause cancer
- Main recognised illnesses are Asbestosis, Mesothelioma, Lung Cancer, Pleural plaques and some of these can take between 15 – 60 years to develop
- Dust can spread to areas other than where the immediate work is taking place
- There are very strict legal rules on what work can and cannot be done

Do



- Check if there is any known asbestos containing materials on site before starting work
- Stop work if you suspect asbestos and report it immediately
- Follow the written safe system of work to avoid disturbing this material
- Inform your line manager of any concerns
- Comply with all precautions detailed in any permit to work
- Watch out for asbestos warning signs and think before commencing work

Don't



- Continue to work if you have concerns about asbestos
- Disturb dust lying on surfaces if you think it may contain asbestos
- Remove, repair or encapsulate asbestos, unless trained and authorised to do so
- Cut, drill, saw or do anything that will disturb the material
- Remove any suspected material from site
- Continue to wear any clothing which may be contaminated with asbestos