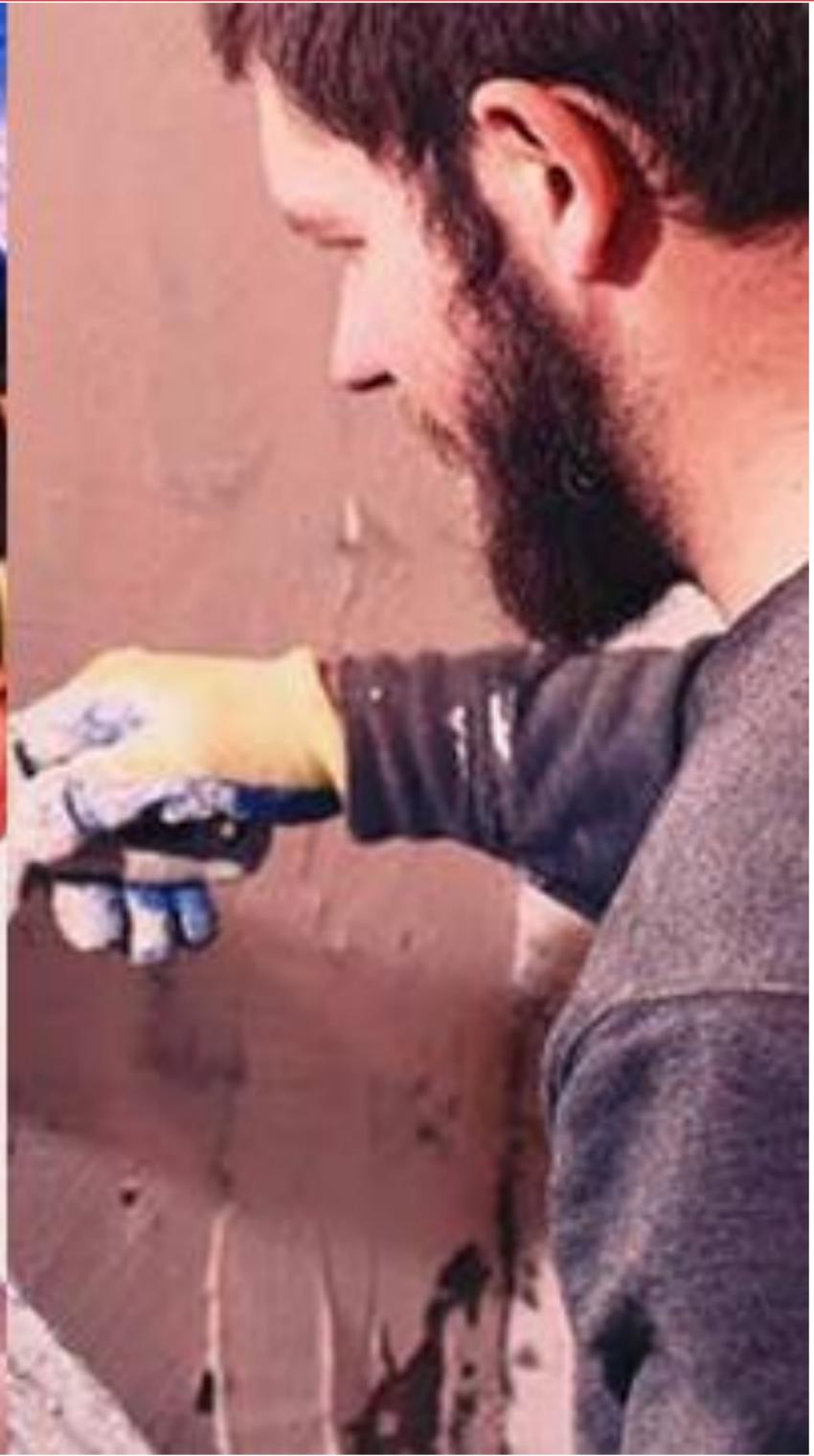


ASBESTOS & You



Campaign toolkit
April 2026

Introduction

This campaign toolkit will give you an overview of our Asbestos & You campaign and how you and your organisation can support the campaign to raise awareness of asbestos risks with tradespeople.

WHY? Workers in skilled trades are at particular risk of discovering and disturbing asbestos during their work. Asbestos can be found in any building built or refurbished before the year 2000. Houses built in fifties, sixties and seventies are very likely to contain asbestos.

OUR AIM is to help tradespeople understand the risk of exposure to asbestos and how they can protect themselves and others. This includes builders, electricians, joiners, plasterers, plumbers, roofers, flooring, painting and decorating professionals.

JOIN US in helping to raise awareness and signpost practical guidance so people who work in building and allied trades know what to look for, and what to do when they come across asbestos.

This is the third year of [HSE's 'Asbestos & You' campaign](#).

Key messages

If you would like to share on your own channels, see suggested wording below as a starter for ten. You can also see our [news pages](#) for latest updates. Feel free to include more information relevant to your work area and/or add a quote from a spokesperson from your organisation.

(Your organisation) supports HSE campaign to highlight the risk of asbestos to those working in trades

Due to the nature of the job, workers in skilled construction and building trades are at particular risk of asbestos exposure. If you're a tradesperson, or manage workers in building, maintenance and allied trades, make sure you know:

- what asbestos-containing materials look like and where they can be found
- how to safely carry out work without disturbing asbestos
- what to do when you come across it
- about asbestos awareness training.

Unlike ordinary dust, asbestos fibres are invisible - you cannot see, smell or feel them in the air or on your clothing.

Knowing what to look for - and what to do when you find it - is essential to protecting yourself and those around you.

More information about the HSE campaign can be found at: [Asbestos & You - Work Right to keep Britain safe](#)

Social media

If you would like to share on your own social media, see some suggested posts below and accompanying social graphics. See the [campaign resource hub](#).

- We are supporting HSE's Asbestos & You campaign to raise awareness of the dangers of asbestos that tradespeople continue face today. <https://bit.ly/3ZzTmTu>
- Asbestos didn't disappear when it was banned in the UK and remains in many older homes and buildings today. Tradespeople have an increased risk of disturbing asbestos during their work, which is why we're supporting the Asbestos & You campaign from HSE <https://bit.ly/3ZzTmTu>
- Asbestos can be in places that you might not expect, find out what common examples look like and where they can be found. See HSE Asbestos & You quick guide for help <https://bit.ly/3ZzTmTu>

Follow us on social media:



Get in touch

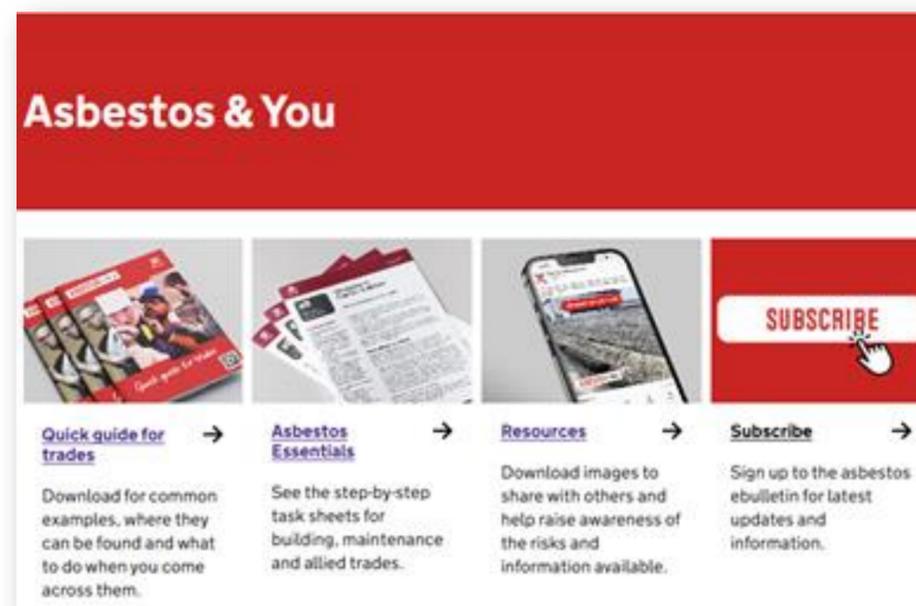
If you have any questions or would like to discuss any opportunities to help share the messages, please contact campaigns@hse.gov.uk

This could include...

- Bespoke content
- Imagery
- Video footage
- Webinars, blogs and podcasts
- If you've got an idea you want to talk through.

Key resources

- [Asbestos & You website](#)
- [Asbestos & You quick guide for trades](#)
- [HSE Asbestos Essentials](#)
- [Sign up to HSE campaigns newsletter.](#)



Asbestos & You

[Quick guide for trades](#) → Download for common examples, where they can be found and what to do when you come across them.

[Asbestos Essentials](#) → See the step-by-step task sheets for building, maintenance and allied trades.

[Resources](#) → Download images to share with others and help raise awareness of the risks and information available.

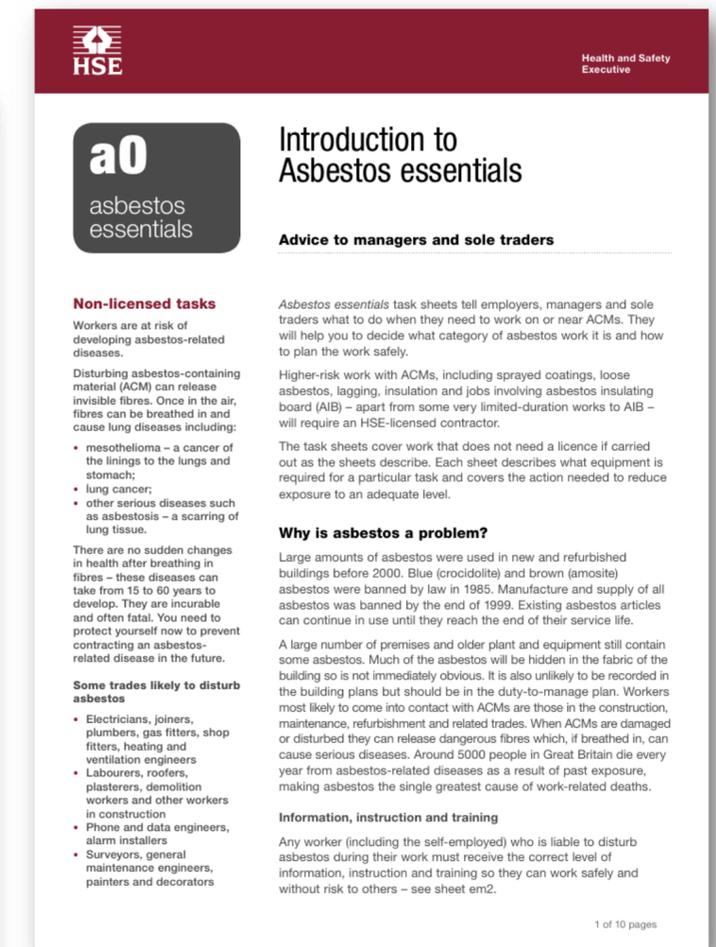
[Subscribe](#) → Sign up to the asbestos ebulletin for latest updates and information.



ASBESTOS & You

HSE

Quick guide for trades



HSE Health and Safety Executive

a0 asbestos essentials

Introduction to Asbestos essentials

Advice to managers and sole traders

Non-licensed tasks
Workers are at risk of developing asbestos-related diseases. Disturbing asbestos-containing material (ACM) can release invisible fibres. Once in the air, fibres can be breathed in and cause lung diseases including:

- mesothelioma – a cancer of the linings to the lungs and stomach;
- lung cancer;
- other serious diseases such as asbestosis – a scarring of lung tissue.

There are no sudden changes in health after breathing in fibres – these diseases can take from 15 to 60 years to develop. They are incurable and often fatal. You need to protect yourself now to prevent contracting an asbestos-related disease in the future.

Some trades likely to disturb asbestos

- Electricians, joiners, plumbers, gas fitters, shop fitters, heating and ventilation engineers
- Labourers, roofers, plasterers, demolition workers and other workers in construction
- Phone and data engineers, alarm installers
- Surveyors, general maintenance engineers, painters and decorators

Why is asbestos a problem?
Large amounts of asbestos were used in new and refurbished buildings before 2000. Blue (crocidolite) and brown (amosite) asbestos were banned by law in 1985. Manufacture and supply of all asbestos was banned by the end of 1999. Existing asbestos articles can continue in use until they reach the end of their service life.

A large number of premises and older plant and equipment still contain some asbestos. Much of the asbestos will be hidden in the fabric of the building so is not immediately obvious. It is also unlikely to be recorded in the building plans but should be in the duty-to-manage plan. Workers most likely to come into contact with ACMs are those in the construction, maintenance, refurbishment and related trades. When ACMs are damaged or disturbed they can release dangerous fibres which, if breathed in, can cause serious diseases. Around 5000 people in Great Britain die every year from asbestos-related diseases as a result of past exposure, making asbestos the single greatest cause of work-related deaths.

Information, instruction and training
Any worker (including the self-employed) who is liable to disturb asbestos during their work must receive the correct level of information, instruction and training so they can work safely and without risk to others – see sheet em2.

1 of 10 pages