

Memorandum

To:	Napier City Council, Hastings City Council, Hawke's Bay Regional Council, Central Hawke's Bay Council, Wairoa District Council.
From:	Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand in Te Matau a Māui Hawke's Bay
Subject:	Asbestos Information
Date:	Monday 27 February 2023

Advice for people clearing flood-damaged materials that may contain asbestos

Be cautious when assessing and working with flood-impacted property and always consider the presence of asbestos in flood-damaged building material.

Asbestos poses a risk to health when fibres are exposed as dust, so it's important people wear protective gear to reduce any exposure.

Products which contain asbestos may be present in houses built, or renovated, between 1940 and 1990. Asbestos may be in insulation, exterior cladding (Fibrolite or Hardiplank), cement roofing or in textured ceilings, wall linings or vinyl flooring.

The Ministry of Health advises asbestos-containing building materials should be removed by a WorkSafe New Zealand licensed contractor.

However, in the wake of Cyclone Gabrielle, we realise this might not always be possible as communities rally together to recover and rebuild. If you still intend to remove asbestos from your home, make sure you follow the advice from the [Removing Asbestos from Your Home](#) booklet which is summarised below.

It's important people:

- Wear a properly fitting P1 or P2 dust respirator, disposable hooded overalls, gloves and shoe coverings.
- Keep potentially asbestos-containing materials damp, and avoid using water blasters or sanders.
- The Ministry of Health booklet [Removing Asbestos from Your Home](#) contains more detailed information to prevent the spread of asbestos dust such as lining other surfaces with polythene, fastening and sealing windows and doors.
- Building materials containing asbestos should be bagged in carefully sealed heavy-duty polythene bags designed for asbestos waste, and marked that they contain asbestos waste. If heavy-duty bags are unavailable, double-bag and carefully seal waste - be careful to avoid over-filling and puncturing bags.

For more guidance search 'asbestos' on the Ministry of Health website:

www.health.govt.nz