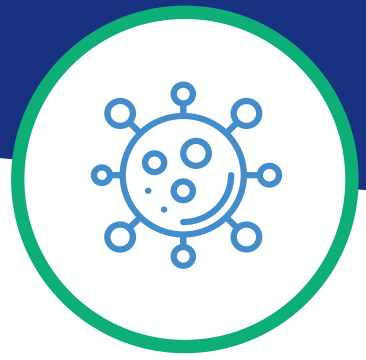


# ASBESTOS

## SOUTHERN CROSS HOUSING FACT SHEET

Asbestos can be a health risk, this fact sheet will provide details on what you should do if you find any Asbestos in your home.



### WHAT IS ASBESTOS?

Asbestos is a mineral fibre. In the past, asbestos was mixed with cement to make it stronger and easier to mould into different shapes and sizes, such as fibro sheeting. Asbestos was also popular because of its fire resistance and insulation qualities.

### IS ASBESTOS DANGEROUS?

Asbestos in fibro sheeting can present a health risk if the sheeting is cut or sanded, causing the physical release of the asbestos fibres. This material is considered safe if it is left undisturbed and is in good condition. Asbestos fibres, when inhaled, can cause asbestosis, lung cancer and mesothelioma.

### IS IT STILL USED TO BUILD OR REPAIR HOUSES IN NSW?

No. Since 1986, asbestos has been banned for use in building products in NSW. Fibro sheeting that may contain asbestos is still present in many homes that were built before 1986.

### AM I IN ANY DANGER?

The long-term risks of living in a home which contains asbestos products is extremely small relative to other risks experienced in everyday lives.

### WHAT DO I DO IF I THINK I HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO ASBESTOS DUST?

Please contact the maintenance team immediately to arrange for the site to be inspected. If you are worried that you have inhaled dust that may contain asbestos, you should contact your doctor.

### WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I OR SOMEONE ELSE HAS ACCIDENTALLY CREATED A HOLE IN SOME FIBRO SHEETING?

Make sure everyone stays clear of the area and contact our Maintenance Team on 1300 757 885.

### WHAT DO I DO IF I SUSPECT THERE IS ASBESTOS MATERIAL IN MY HOME?

A significant number of the homes in NSW built before 1986 could contain some form of asbestos cement, irrespective if they are public housing or privately owned homes. If you think asbestos may be in your home and the asbestos is showing signs of wear or damage please contact the Maintenance Team at Southern Cross Housing on 1300 757 885.

If material contains asbestos, Southern Cross Housing will ensure it is either rendered safe or removed. The residential tenancy agreement signed by you at the beginning of your tenancy states that you are not to alter your home in any way without the permission of Southern Cross Housing or the owner. This includes cutting into walls, drilling holes, making repairs and other alterations.

### IF I FIND CEMENT SHEETING LYING ON THE GROUND OR UNDER MY HOUSE, WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Don't touch it. Report it to the Maintenance Team on 1300 757 885.

