

Personal De-contamination Guide

Non-friable asbestos removals – dry decontamination

Guidance Note GN-01 – August 2019

A

1. Move to the separate clean change or decontamination area - remote from the removal.
2. Remove disposable suit inside out – dispose of in a new bag.
Do not combine dirty PPE with other contaminated waste in bags.
3. Wipe/spray/vacuum and clean boots. Dispose of used cleaning media in bag.
4. Pull gloves off inside out – dispose of in same bag as suit and seal bag.



B

5. Place sealed bag inside a second bag (double bag) and leave second outer bag open.
6. Wipe clean hands and mask while still on, then forehead and any other exposed skin.
7. Dispose of remaining wipes/cleaning media in outer double bag.
8. Then remove mask (last), and dispose of pre-filters and main filters as necessary.
Clean mask thoroughly. If using disposable mask, dispose of completely.
9. Store mask with main filter protected/sealed if retained on mask.



C

10. Clean hands once more and then face with water spray or wipes.
11. Dispose of final wipes in outer bag. Gooseneck and seal bag to complete.
12. Once sealed, dispose of at an EPA approved waste facility with other asbestos waste.

Do's

- ✓ Always use a separate clean bag to dispose of dirty Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to minimise cross contamination.
- ✓ Always fit check your mask, keep it clean and maintained throughout the day, and prevent cross contamination from filters during storage.
- ✓ Always use air monitoring results to give you a final clearance in the area you were performing removal, particularly in an indoor environment, combined with visual assessment by the Asbestos Assessor for licensed removal work.
- ✓ Always work with the Asbestos Assessor to ensure you are both covering off all areas for clean-up during final inspection.
- ✓ Always suppress or minimise dust at the source and during disturbance to prevent contamination. This will also help minimise dust around your breathing zone (e.g. ensuring you are not relying exclusively on respiratory protection).
- ✓ Consider the use of negative air units in confined or indoor environments to extract contaminated air away from sensitive locations in the building, the clean change area, and quickly away from your breathing zone. In other words, this is a way of introducing clean air while filtering dirty air out of the zone (a clean air exchange), and improving worker conditions with additional air movement.
- ✓ Always use a surfactant (e.g. a mild detergent, PVA glue) with your spray equipment.
- ✓ Always ensure your mask is the last piece of PPE to be removed during personal decontamination.

Don'ts

- ✗ Don't combine dirty PPE in the same bag with other asbestos waste generated on site, during personal decontamination.
- ✗ Don't store your mask with the filter unsealed in the same container/bag.
- ✗ Don't assume the air is clear of airborne asbestos just because the area visually appears clean.
- ✗ Don't interpret good air monitoring results from sample testing on the perimeter or remote from the work, in comparison to the location of the actual disturbance where there will likely be higher dust concentrations – i.e. in the removal/PPE zone.
- ✗ Don't go back into the removal zone without PPE until final clearances are given.

Disclaimer:

This is a guide only and is in no way a substitution, replacement, or direction in lieu of your own safe work procedures and on-site training/supervision. PCBU's are responsible for ensuring safe decontamination relevant to the situation, asbestos work being carried out, and specific risk identified for that site. All work should be carried out in accordance with the approved Asbestos Codes of Practice requirements, relevant to your own jurisdiction.