

health and safety

asbestos

We have a legal obligation to survey properties prior to any works being carried out. This may mean that we will be unable to carry out the repair or improvement work to your home until the survey has been completed.

what is asbestos?

Asbestos is the name given to six natural minerals that have been used as insulation reinforcement of buildings and some fire protection. It is not unusual to find asbestos in homes as it was extensively used in the building industry until 1999. Homes built after 1999 will not have any asbestos products in their construction.

where could I find asbestos?

Examples of where asbestos may be found are in the decorative coatings to ceilings and walls, floor tiles, bath panels, pipework boxing, guttering and rainwater goods and roof felts.

is asbestos dangerous?

Most asbestos-containing building materials are not dangerous if they are in good condition and are not damaged. But asbestos dust can cause health problems if it is released into the air and breathed in on a regular basis. You should therefore avoid asbestos that is damaged or broken and you should not drill, saw or sand it whilst carrying out DIY projects.

Please remember that you must get permission from Soha for all DIY projects by completing the green 'Permission to carry out alterations' form available from Soha's Customer Service Advisors.



dealing with asbestos

If you are in doubt about whether there is asbestos in your home, please don't investigate yourself but instead contact Soha. We will send a specialist contractor if appropriate to advise what action we should take.

If you accidentally damage something that might contain asbestos (for example by drilling into a wall)

- **stop work immediately**
- **keep others away from the area**
- **tell Soha (see the bottom of this page)**
- **we'll inspect it and keep you safe.**

Soha has an extensive register of asbestos containing materials which are present in some of our homes, and we carry out a regular monitoring process to ensure that they are in good condition and are safe. If the monitoring process shows that we need to take any remedial action, it will be carried out by Soha's specialist contractors. Under no circumstances should you investigate or remove any suspected asbestos materials yourself.

We will do our best to offer a translation service in a different language if this would be helpful. This may include using a translator to speak to you about the content of a publication rather than giving you a hard copy of your own. We also do our best to offer large print or audio versions of publications. Contact us via the details below.