

Asbestos Management Plan for Allotments

Introduction

This plan has been developed in accordance with the UK Health and Safety Executive (em1 asbestos essentials), to comply with the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012.

This asbestos management plan has been created to provide guidance on dealing with potential asbestos containing materials (ACMs) that may be uncovered on allotment sites. Asbestos can pose a serious health risk if fibres are inhaled, so it is imperative that proper procedures are followed if asbestos is suspected. This plan aims to ensure the safety of allotment holders, town council staff, and members of the public by outlining risk averse practices aligned with Health and Safety Executive (HSE) recommendations.

Identification of Possible Asbestos

Allotment holders, Allotment Committee members, the Allotment Office, and town council staff should be vigilant in looking out for any potential ACMs. Materials that could contain asbestos include:

- ▲ Old fallen sheds or structures made with asbestos cement, corrugated roofing, or siding.
- ▲ Old insulation materials.
- ▲ Tiles, mastic, roofing felts, ceiling tiles.
- ▲ Pipe lagging.
- ▲ Asbestos gloves, blankets, mats.

Any material that resembles asbestos and is uncovered on the allotment site should be treated as suspicious until testing proves otherwise. Do not handle or disturb suspected ACMs.

Procedure if Asbestos is Suspected

An allotment holder, or Allotment Committee member that suspects any material could be asbestos, must take the following steps:

1. Halt any activity that could disturb the material, such as digging or clearing the area.
2. Contact the Allotment Officer, or Town Council staff.
3. Do not attempt to touch, move, or sample the material under any circumstances, as this could release hazardous asbestos fibres.

Management by Ashington Town Council

Upon receiving a report of suspected ACMs, the Council will:

- ✓ Verify the report and visit the site to inspect the suspected material.
- ✓ Arrange that the affected area is cordoned-off and, if safely possible, sealed to prevent access. Use barrier tape, fencing or any other physical barrier.
- ✓ Post warning signs to advise the public to avoid the area.
- ✓ Once made safe the Town Council will provide details on the location and what the material looks like to a certified asbestos professional and will advise the Allotment Association if not already aware.
- ✓ Hire a certified asbestos removal contractor to take samples for testing.
- ✓ If testing confirms asbestos, coordinate with the contractor to safely remove, and dispose of all ACMs in accordance with HSE regulations.
- ✓ Keep the affected area cordoned off until remediation work is complete.

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- ✓ Maintain records of all inspections, testing reports, correspondence related to the asbestos discovery.
- ✓ Instruct allotment holders not to access the contaminated location.

Conclusion

This asbestos management plan outlines a precautionary approach to dealing with potential asbestos finds on allotments, with the priority being to prevent any hazardous exposure.

By following the step-by-step procedures and contracting certified asbestos professionals whenever ACMs are suspected, the safety of allotment users and the public can be assured.

All involved parties must work together diligently to identify, contain, and remove any Legacy asbestos left on the sites.