



ACT
Government

**Asbestos Response
Taskforce**

ACT Asbestos Response Taskforce – Q&A on asbestos assessments

See below some common questions in relation to asbestos assessments.

Q: Why didn't the assessors test my roof, subfloor and wall spaces?

Following the results of hundreds of assessments done to date, a conclusion can be drawn that loose-fill fibres would most likely be in these areas. Therefore the focus on testing now is on living areas (such as lounge rooms, bedrooms etc) to check for contamination. This provides more targeted information on contamination and will inform any remediation work to make the living spaces safer in the short term.

Q: I don't know if the testing at my house was rigorous enough. Can I get another test?

Licensed asbestos assessors use their professional capacity, drawing on expertise and experience, to undertake testing in houses. The nature of the testing including the number of samples taken may differ from house to house depending on the individual circumstances of houses.

The Taskforce has asked that homeowners provide copies of their assessments. These should be emailed to asbestostaskforce@act.gov.au. The reports are being reviewed by the Taskforce and if the Taskforce has any concerns about the nature or level of testing, will arrange for another test to be undertaken.

Q: I don't think I have a Mr Fluffy house but I want to double check through an assessment. Will the cost of the assessment be refunded?

The Taskforce Head recently sent registered letters to the owners of all homes known by the ACT Government to be affected by loose fill asbestos insulation. Reimbursement for assessments is only occurring for the identified homes that were part of the original removal program in the early 1990s.

If you received a registered letter from the Taskforce in the last four weeks, you should register with the Taskforce and request an assessment. This will then be arranged for you.

If you did not get a letter but still want an assessment, you can arrange it yourself, with a list of licensed assessors available here: http://www.actpla.act.gov.au/topics/hiring_licensing/find_professional/list

Note, you will only be reimbursed for the cost of this assessment in the unlikely case your home is found to have loose-fill asbestos insulation.

Q: I had an assessment done more than two weeks ago and haven't received my report yet. What do I do?

In the first instance, you should contact the company who undertook your testing directly.

Note that reports can take up to two weeks to be received following the assessment. If you have contacted the company and still have concerns, contact the Taskforce.



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Q: Should I tell my house/life/health insurer that I reside in a Mr Fluffy House? And will my insurance cover contaminated contents?

The Taskforce has received a number of questions on whether homeowners should disclose to their insurance companies that they reside in a house affected by loose-fill asbestos. Questions are also being asked if insurance companies will cover contaminated contents in houses.

We recommend if you have any questions in relation to insurance you contact your insurance company directly for advice.

Q: Have a question for our FAQ?

We continue to strive to target our information to the questions and concerns you have. We know that if you are asking a question, chances are many in our community are.

While we are answering many of your questions individually each day and updating our website regularly, we are keen to continue to add to this.

If you have a question you think many in our community may also be interested in hearing, email us at asbestostaskforce@act.gov.au with the subject of the email as "Question for FAQ" and we will seek to add it to our webpage.

Q: How do I contact the Taskforce?

Call the Taskforce through Canberra Connect on 13 22 81 or email to asbestostaskforce@act.gov.au. You can also follow us on Twitter [@TaskforceACT](https://twitter.com/TaskforceACT).

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