



Working Safely in Eligible Impacted Properties

20 March 2018

OVERVIEW

This sheet provides information on working safely in units or townhouses that share a common wall with an affected (Mr Fluffy) property.

The Taskforce has identified a small number of units or townhouses that are structurally connected to a Mr Fluffy property via a shared wall. This wall is presumed to be at risk of contamination with asbestos fibres.

DETAILS

- In 2014, the ACT Government undertook to eradicate loose fill asbestos insulation from the Canberra community by offering to purchase and demolish 1022 affected properties. A list of these properties can be found at www.asbestostaskforce.act.gov.au/list.
- A small number of these affected properties share a wall, roof space or sub-floor space with one or more adjoining properties.
- In some cases it may not be possible to safely and efficiently demolish an affected property and completely remove the risks of loose fill asbestos insulation unless some or all of the adjoining property is also demolished.
- The owners of these properties - Eligible Impacted Properties - will be invited to participate in the voluntary Eligible Impacted Property Buyback Program (Impacted Buyback Program).
- Whether an owner chooses to participate in the Impacted Buyback Program or not, it is important that caution be exercised with regard any works that may affect the shared wall.
- It can be assumed that the shared wall (often known as a 'party wall') immediately neighbouring an affected property may be contaminated with loose fill asbestos fibres, even though investigation by the Taskforce has shown contamination of the living areas of neighbouring impacted properties is unlikely.
- Work that might disturb the cavity of the shared wall or roof space with an affected property should not proceed unless a risk assessment is first carried out by a licensed asbestos assessor. A list of licensed asbestos assessors can be found at www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/app/services/licence/#/.

- Maintenance work can proceed in other areas of an Eligible Impacted Property subject to the normal work health and safety regulations as set out by WorkSafe - www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/app/home#/workhealthandsafety/constructionsafety.
- If in doubt, a licensed asbestos assessor should be engaged before carrying out any significant maintenance or building work that may disturb the shared wall or roof cavity.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Call Access Canberra on 13 22 81 and ask to speak with the Asbestos Response Taskforce, or email asbestostaskforce@act.gov.au.

ACCESSIBILITY

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