TOOLBOX TALK

Asbestos Awareness

Topic	Asbestos Awareness	Attendees	0

WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT

Asbestos is still in a huge number of older buildings, and trades workers are the people most likely to disturb it. Breathing the fibres causes mesothelioma, lung cancer and asbestosis, often 20 to 40 years later. If you are not sure whether something is asbestos, stop and treat it as if it is.

1. Any building built or refurbished before 2000 may contain asbestos. Ask for the refurbishment and demolition survey before you start.
2. Common places: soffits and fascias, bath panels and wall boards (AIB), floor tiles, pipe lagging, textured coatings like Artex, cement roof sheets and gutters, and old fuse boards.
3. A survey does not cover everything. Check what areas the refurbishment and demolition survey actually opened up, because materials hide behind panels, under floors and above ceilings.
4. If you find something suspect: stop work, do not touch it, keep people away and tell your supervisor.
5. Never cut, drill, sand, break or water blast material that might contain asbestos.
6. Never dry sweep or use a normal vacuum on asbestos dust or debris.
7. Some short, lower risk jobs are non-licensed work, and some of those are notifiable (NNLW) with health checks and records. Only do them if you are trained and the plan says so.
8. Most higher risk asbestos work must be done by an HSE licensed contractor. Anyone who could disturb asbestos needs asbestos awareness training.
9. Disposable coveralls (type 5) and at least an FFP3 mask are needed for any work near asbestos. A paper dust mask does not protect you.
10. Asbestos waste is double bagged, labelled and taken away by a licensed carrier. It never goes in the general skip.
11. If you think you have been exposed, tell your supervisor and make sure it is recorded. Exposure records matter decades later.

QUESTIONS FOR THE CREW

1. Have we seen the asbestos survey or register for this building?
2. Which materials on this job might contain asbestos?
3. What would you do if you drilled into something and it looked like fibre sheeting?
4. Who do we call to remove it?
5. When did you last do asbestos awareness training?

Reference: Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012

RUN BY

	Name	Signature	Date	
Presenter				

ATTENDANCE

Name	Role / company	Signature	Date

Name	Role / company	Signature	Date

Keep this record with your site safety file.