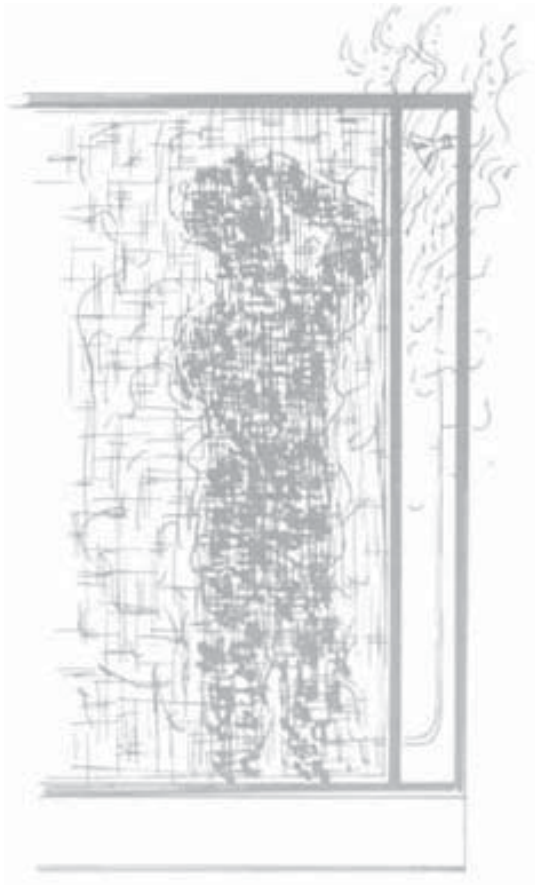


Washing facilities or showers should be provided for asbestos workers, preferably adjoining the work area. Storage for street clothes should also be provided. All these facilities should be cleaned daily.

If you are taking a meal or tea break during asbestos work, you should first remove all asbestos dust from your overalls and thoroughly wash your hands and face.



People who smoke should realise that smoking greatly increases the danger of asbestos-related illnesses.



# TALKING ASBESTOS



**Important Note:**

All the publications in the Publications Archive contain the best guidance available at the time of publishing. However, you should consider the effect of any changes to the law since then. You should also check that the Standards referred to are still current.



Because of the high health risk to people handling asbestos-based materials, regulations known as the Asbestos Regulations 1983 have been introduced into New Zealand, setting safety standards for those involved.

The regulations are administered by the Departments of Health and Labour. Both departments have inspectors available to provide advice on any problems that may be encountered.

If you are uncertain of the type of asbestos you may be handling, have an inspector take samples for analysis.



You should be aware that some asbestos work is defined as restricted work, making it mandatory to notify in writing both the Health and Labour Department inspectors of your work intention. Forms for this purpose are obtainable from these departments throughout New Zealand.



*Note:* Restricted work can be carried out only by a person who holds a certificate of competency for asbestos work. This is issued only by the Department of Labour.

The most common types of asbestos likely to be encountered are:

1. **White asbestos** (Chrysotile), a curly white to grey fibre which is difficult to separate into individual fibres.
2. **Brown asbestos** (Amosite), which consists of colourless to grey-brown straight fibres.
3. **Blue asbestos** (Crocidolite), similar to amosite but blue in colour.

Respiratory protective equipment must be worn by any person who could be exposed to asbestos dust. Only equipment approved by the Director-General of Health may be used. A list of approved equipment is included in the appendix to the *Asbestos Guide 1986*, issued by the Department of Labour.

You should also wear protective clothing when working with asbestos. This clothing should be of the disposable type, or of a kind that can be washed down.

Another important point to remember is that any asbestos waste must be placed in an impervious container that can be securely sealed.

Asbestos waste can only be disposed of at a place approved by the medical officer of health, or in another manner approved by an inspector.

