 

# Are you Asbestos aware?

# Advice from North West Leicestershire District Council in partnership with Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership:

# Is asbestos dangerous?

Asbestos is the single greatest cause of work-related deaths in the UK. Any building built before 2000 can contain asbestos. Asbestos materials in good condition are safe, but when asbestos fibres are damaged they become airborne. When these fibres are inhaled they can cause serious diseases which are responsible for around 4500 deaths a year, with around 2500 new cases a year. Information from the HSE states each week 4 plumbers die, 20 tradesmen die, 6 electricians die, 8 joiners die from exposure to asbestos.

**It is therefore essential any asbestos within a building is located and dealt with, either by safe removal or a safe system of work implemented to ensure the asbestos is not disturbed by any person.**

**Do I have a duty to manage asbestos in a premises?**

Under the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012, whoever is responsible for maintaining all or part of business premises must also manage any asbestos in the premises.

**What are my responsibilities?**

If you hold this legal duty for maintaining all or part of a business premises, you must:

* **ASSESS: A suitable and sufficient assessment should identify whether the premises has or is likely to have asbestos. Where are materials likely to contain asbestos located? What condition are they in?**
* **RECORD: Remember to keep a record of the location and condition of materials likely to contain asbestos, and ensure people who will work on or disturb them are well informed.**
* **MANAGE: You need to assess the risk of anyone being exposed to fibres from these materials. Prepare and implement a plan to ensure the materials are properly managed (or safely removed by a licensed contractor where necessary). Make sure this plan is periodically monitored and reviewed.**
* **COOPERATE: Remember that even if you aren't legally responsible for managing asbestos risks in your premises, you have a duty to co-operate with the party who is.**

*(You may need to use the services of an external surveyor. Where there is doubt you should presume materials contain asbestos.)*

**If you have a duty act now!**

# WHERE CAN I GET ADVICE?

You can find out more about your role in managing asbestos through:

* **The ‘Better Business for All’ business support scheme**

Call 0871 384 3185 or email BBfA@llep.org.uk

* **The Health & Safety Executive (HSE) website: www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos**

The HSE website has the following useful publications to download or order:

[*Managing asbestos in buildings*](http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg223.pdf)

ISBN: 9780717664870 Series code: INDG223(rev5) Price: £5.00 for a pack of 5

[*Asbestos: The Survey Guide*](http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/hsg264.pdf)

ISBN: 9780717665020 Series code:HSG264 (Second edition) Price: £17.50

[*The management of Asbestos in non-domestic premises*](http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/l127.pdf)

ISBN: 9780717662098 Series code: L127 Price: £9.50

[*Work with materials containing asbestos*](http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/l143.pdf)

# ISBN: 9780717662067 Series code: L143 Price: £13.50

# *(Telephone number to order: 01787 881165)*

**HELP US!**

**Please help us by spending 2 minutes providing us with feedback**

We are interested to know if you found this leaflet useful. Please take a couple of minutes to email Kathryn Preece at BBfA@llep.org.uk. We would like to know:

1) If this letter was useful.

2) If you have looked at the guidance on the HSE website OR ordered any of the publications listed.

3) If you have discovered you have a duty to manage asbestos and are in the process of implementing an asbestos survey.

**This leaflet is part of a targeted project run by Leicestershire District, Borough and City Councils. Your feedback is important.**