

Centacare Evolve Housing Fact Sheet

All About Asbestos



What is asbestos?

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral. In the past, it was used in building materials. But it is now banned from use. Asbestos is dangerous when it is breathed in. Many houses in Tasmania were built before 2003 when it was banned. So, if your home was built before 2003, asbestos may be present.

Is asbestos dangerous?

Asbestos is not dangerous if it is not damaged, crumbled or crushed. This means that, while there may be asbestos in your home, it may not be a problem if left undisturbed. However, damaged, crumbled or crushed asbestos can be a big problem for human health. When asbestos is inhaled or swallowed, the small fibres can get stuck inside the body. This may cause illness and can lead to death.

What is Centacare Evolve Housing doing about asbestos?

We take asbestos very seriously. We know that many Centacare Evolve Housing properties were built with materials that contain asbestos and we are continuing to work hard to remove asbestos from homes.

If there is asbestos in your home, but it's not damaged, then it can be left alone. We want you to know where asbestos might be in your home. That way, you can check it from time to time and make sure it's ok.

If you notice any damage, you must let us know straight away. A lot of the time, the areas that contain asbestos are on the outside of a home. This means they might be damaged by the weather. It's also a good idea look out for damage when you and your tenancy officer do an inspection of your home. If we think there is damaged asbestos in your home, we will act quickly.

Sanding and drilling makes asbestos a problem

Please don't do any sanding or drilling in your home. This could create a problem with asbestos. Your lease agreement says that you can't do any renovations to a Centacare Evolve Housing home.

What if you want to buy a Centacare Evolve Housing home?

Before you buy a Centacare Evolve Housing home, we suggest you talk to a builder about asbestos. Registered builders are the best people to talk to. They understand the problems with asbestos. Once you buy the home, the maintenance and upgrades are up to you. We suggest that you avoid disturbing any asbestos that is at your home.

Where to find out more

You can visit www.worksafe.tas.gov.au to find more information.

More information

If you would like further information about your responsibilities as a Centacare Evolve Housing tenant please refer to your Lease or contact us.

Other fact sheets that might be useful:

- Can you renovate?