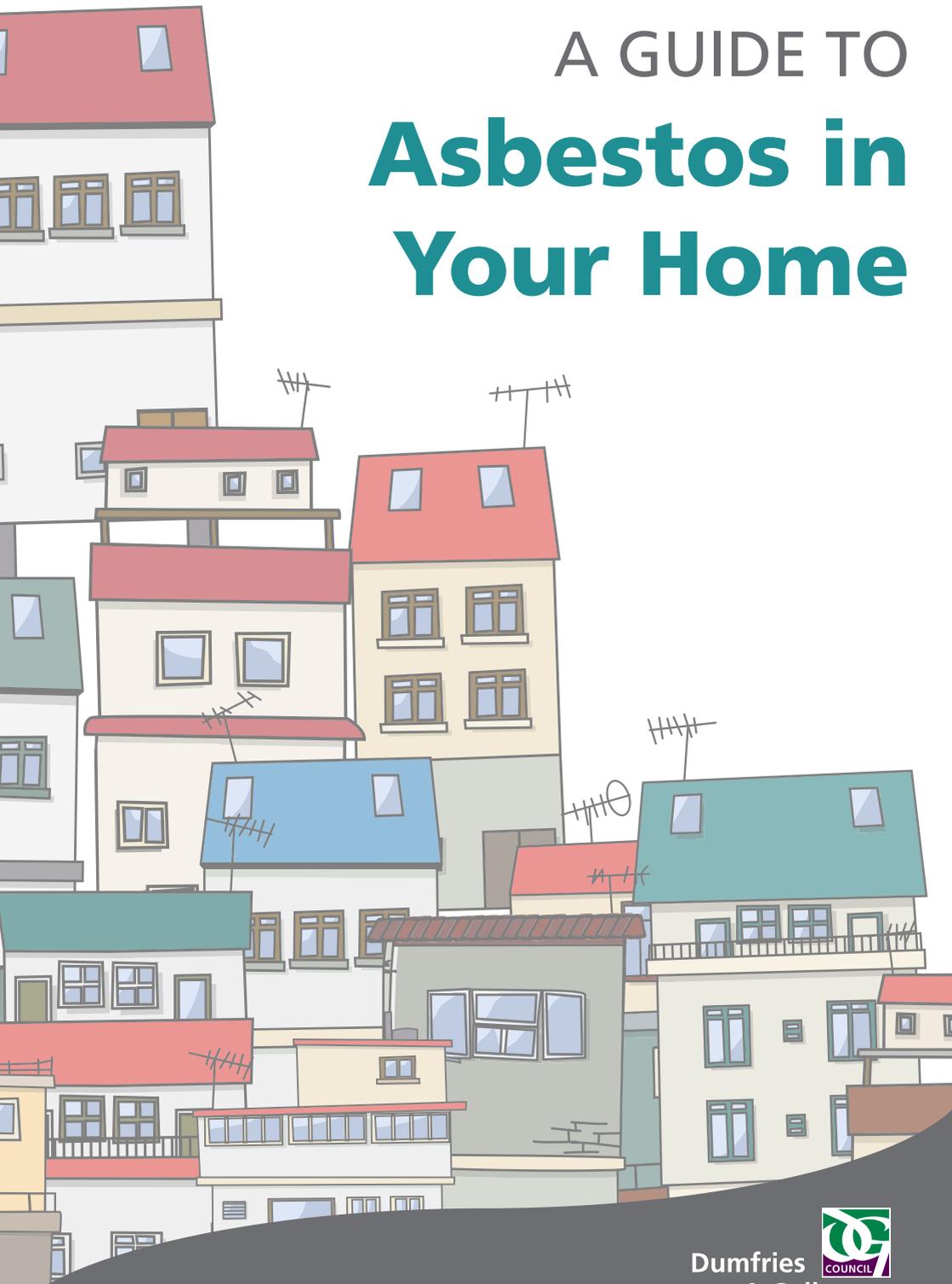


# A GUIDE TO **Asbestos in Your Home**



## What is asbestos?

Asbestos is a naturally occurring material which has been mined in various parts of the world for over 150 years. Although it was designed and produced as an ideal fireproofing and insulation material, asbestos can cause problems if it is disturbed or damaged.

Asbestos that is kept well maintained and protected or covered by an impermeable layer such as paint, will not present a hazard to health.

When asbestos materials become damaged or age, they can release fibres into the air. These can be breathed deep into the lungs where they may stay for a long time, potentially causing damage. Where very high levels of these fibres are breathed in, there is a risk of lung diseases, including cancer.

## Asbestos in the home

Asbestos has been used as a building material in the UK since the 1950's. It was used in the manufacture of the following items:

- Plastic/Vinyl floor tiles
- Artex coatings
- Wall panels
- Electrical fuse boxes
- Lagging around pipework
- Gutters and rainwater pipework
- Cooker seals
- Roof cladding
- Heating boilers

None of the above uses of asbestos are a health hazard unless the asbestos has been damaged, broken or is flaking. If you are unsure, seek professional advice. In 1999 the use of asbestos in building material was banned in the UK. This means houses built after 2000 are highly unlikely to contain asbestos anywhere in the building.

Since 1976, British manufacturers labelled their products to show they contain asbestos. From 1999, the manufacture and importation of asbestos and asbestos products was banned in the UK.



## What to do if you find asbestos in your home

If you believe that you have asbestos in your home, please leave it undisturbed.

- Do not touch it or remove it
- Do not throw asbestos in the bin
- Contact a specialist and seek advice

For more information regarding asbestos in your home, visit [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk)

## Who do you contact?

You must always seek professional advice to find out the most appropriate way to deal with asbestos and more importantly, if you think you have damaged asbestos materials in your home. In some circumstances asbestos can only be removed and disposed safely by a professional contractor with a special license issued by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

You can get more information on licensing and asbestos by contacting the HSE on 0300 003 1747 or by visiting their website at [www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos](http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos).

## Disposing of asbestos

Asbestos is classed as hazardous waste and you can only get rid of it at licensed disposal sites. You must never put asbestos in your bin at home.

Some recycling centres in the area will take small amounts of household asbestos. The asbestos containers are locked so you'll need to organise disposal with the site operators beforehand and they'll also explain the best way to handle the asbestos. This course of action should only be taken if you have been advised that this is a safe means of disposal.

Call Shanks on 01387 750911 if you want to bring asbestos to recycling centres at:

Annan  
Beattock  
Castle Douglas  
Dalbeattie  
Galdenoch (Leswalt)  
Lochar Moss (Dumfries)  
Newton Stewart  
Sanquhar  
Whithorn

Household waste recycling centres won't accept large amounts of asbestos from home construction and demolition projects or commercial activities. You will need to contact a specialist company for help.

## Contact Us

We have a range of leaflets on different topics available on request. If you would like further information on the types of assistance available to homeowners please contact:

### **Dumfries and Galloway Council**

Communities  
Strategic Housing  
Municipal Chambers  
Buccleuch Street  
Dumfries  
DG1 2AD

Tel: 030 33 33 3000

Email: [strategichousing@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:strategichousing@dumgal.gov.uk)

[www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15101/Housing](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15101/Housing)

