



Specific Prescribed Industrial Waste - Asbestos

Asbestos is considered a Prescribed Industrial Waste by Victorian law.

Asbestos has been a **banned** substance in Australia since 31st December 2003. This is due to the likelihood of asbestos causing severe lung disease which can result in serious illness or death.

Asbestos is no longer used in the manufacture of brake pads, clutches and gaskets and is rare to come by, although it may be present in older vehicles that have not been serviced for many years. As a result, it is important that asbestos be handled appropriately when removing, transporting and disposing of it.

The disposal of waste asbestos is controlled by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA). In addition, the EPA controls the transportation of waste asbestos when undertaken by a commercial contractor. The legislation which governs the transportation of asbestos is the *Environment Protection (Industrial Waste Resource) Regulations 2009*. The legislation which governs the processing, handling and the physical removal of asbestos is the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2007*.

Good Practice

- Consider the age of vehicles you work on.
- Determine if there is any possibility of asbestos being used in vehicles being serviced.
- Where asbestos is in use and must be replaced, you must comply with the requirements of the Industrial Waste Resource Guidelines 6.1 – *Asbestos Transport and Disposal*.
- Use a wet down method when replacing brake pads. Do not allow any friction material dust to be blown off with compressed air.
- If there is any possibility of asbestos dust being present in your building, have air quality monitoring tests conducted.
- Keep a register of any existing asbestos in the building to provide to contractors when necessary.

Disposing of Asbestos

- Dispose of hard materials containing asbestos in accordance with Prescribed Industrial Waste requirements.
- Have an EPA approved transporter collect your asbestos waste.
- An EPA Waste Transport Certificate must be accurately filled out by the asbestos generator, transporter and receiver. This must be kept for at least 24 months.
- Disposal of asbestos must only be at a site licensed by the EPA to accept waste asbestos.

Important Links

- EPA Industrial Waste Resource Guidelines *Asbestos Transport and Disposal* found at <http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/waste/industrial-waste-guidelines.asp> under 6.1 *Prescribed Industrial Wastes with Specific Handling Requirements*.

Further Information



Environment Protection Authority Victoria
Phone: (03) 9695 2722
www.epa.vic.gov.au

WorkSafe Victoria
Phone: 1800 136 089 (toll free)
<http://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/wsinternet/WorkSafe/Home/Safety+and+Prevention/Health+And+Safety+Topics/Asbestos/>

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Note: This Good Practice Guideline is not a complete statement of law relevant to this topic. Further legal advice must be sought if complete information is required.