



KNOWLEDGE GUIDE SERIES

Compliant Handling and Disposal of Asbestos Cement (AC) Roofing Sheets



How to safely dispose of Cement Bonded Asbestos Roofing Sheets



5 minute read

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BACKGROUND

Asbestos waste is 'Hazardous Waste' when it contains more than 0.1% of asbestos. The Hazardous Waste Regulations 2005 apply to all types of asbestos waste.

All types of Asbestos can be extremely harmful to human health and as such, there is a significant amount of legislation governing the safe removal and disposal of Asbestos Containing Materials (ACMs), including The Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012, The Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations 2009 (CDG 2009) and The Hazardous Waste Regulations 2005.

The purpose of this guide is to provide advice and guidance on the safe containment and disposal of Asbestos Cement (AC) roofing sheets.

There are several resources and guidance documents available on working on or near Asbestos Containing Materials (ACMS) on the HSE website, including the [Introduction to Asbestos Essentials](#) document.





What is Cement Asbestos?

Asbestos Cement is a mixture of cement and asbestos. Asbestos cement usually contains white asbestos and although all asbestos is hazardous and extremely harmful to human health, Asbestos Cement is generally considered a lower risk as it does not release as many fibres.

After World War II the demand for cheap building materials for housing and industrial purposes made the asbestos roof sheet perfect for large-scale use on farm buildings, factory roofs, household garages, and sheds. It was cheap, easy to make, impervious to all weathers, and fast to install.

However, due to the carcinogenic nature of asbestos material, the

manufacture and supply of all asbestos was banned in the UK by the end of 1999. Asbestos articles that were already made and supplied could continue in use until the end of their life, meaning that there are still vast quantities of asbestos in use in buildings and structures throughout the UK.

How to identify Asbestos Cement sheets?

If you are looking at replacing or dismantling a garage, farm, factory, or outbuilding roof which was installed before 1999, there is a good chance it will contain asbestos.

When dealing with asbestos cement (AC) sheets, it is advisable to consult a professional, otherwise, further guidance on the removal of asbestos cement (AC) can be found on the HSE website in the document [‘Removing asbestos cement \(AC\) sheets, gutter, etc and dismantling a small AC structure’ \(Asbestos Essentials a14\)](#).

Transportation options for Asbestos Cement (AC) sheets

When AC sheets are removed and disposed of they should be intact as far as possible, so as to not disturb and risk the release of asbestos fibres. AC sheets must be taken to an appropriately licensed facility.

Van Transportation

If roofing sheets are being transported to a Licensed Asbestos Waste Transfer Station, they should be double-wrapped in 1000-gauge polythene sheeting, up to two sheets can be enclosed in one wrap, due to manual handling considerations. They should be securely taped and labelled with asbestos warning stickers.



If there are any loose pieces of roofing sheets, these should be double-bagged in asbestos waste bags (red inner asbestos bags and clear outer bags).

For any non-household waste being transferred, a Waste Carriers License will be required. If you do not have a Waste Carrier License, do not attempt to transport the waste yourself, instead seek the services of a licensed waste carrier,



Skip or Container

Once the Asbestos Cement sheets are appropriately packaged and wrapped, they can be placed in an enclosed skip or container. The asbestos container should be enclosed, lockable, and should be labelled with the appropriate signage for compliant transportation by road.

When loading a skip or container, sheets should be stacked carefully to avoid damage and breakages to the material. It is not acceptable to use an open skip or container for Asbestos Cement waste and throw sheeting over the top.



Asbestos must NEVER be placed loose into an open or enclosed skip or container



Planning your waste disposal requirements

For building and specialist contractors planning a project that requires the disposal of AC sheets, it is possible to gauge a rough estimate of how many tonnes of asbestos cement will be required to be disposed of by following a simple method.

Although the size and weight of asbestos roof sheets may vary, generally 1m² of standard asbestos cement roofing sheet weighs around 15kg. So, for example if there is 5000m² of roof sheet, an approximate weight can be calculated by multiplying the metres squared by the weight of 15kg.

$$5000 \times 15 = 75000\text{kg or } 75 \text{ tonnes}$$

This provides a guide only as provisions need to be made for how the container is stacked and any unused space in the container.

By establishing an approximate weight the most efficient containment and transportation method can be sourced.

A large enclosed container can hold up to 14 tonnes of waste. For large jobs it is possible to double up and provide two containers, by using a trailer, saving on transport costs.

For smaller quantities of asbestos waste, specialist Van Collection services can generally hold up to 1 tonne of wrapped AC sheets.

Disposal

At present, the only option for the disposal of asbestos waste in the UK is landfill disposal. Asbestos waste has to be disposed of at a Hazardous Waste Landfill Facility that has a Stable Non-Reactive Asbestos Cell.

A Waste Consignment Note will need to be completed for the disposal of your asbestos cement waste and this will need to be kept for three years.

IMPORTANT NOTE – It is important to note that this is based on loads containing Asbestos Cement only and not AC sheets that are heavily mixed or contaminated with organic material. This type of material needs to be handled in a specialised way

You can rely on Windsor Waste Management

With our knowledge and expertise in dealing with asbestos and hazardous waste streams, Windsor Waste Management can support you through the process and provide you with the service you need so you can rest assured your waste is being handled safely and compliantly.

Windsor Waste Management provides a range of services for your asbestos disposal needs:

- ✓ A wide range of enclosed skips and containers and UN Approved Hazibags for the containment and transportation of asbestos waste.
- ✓ A van collection service for smaller quantities of asbestos waste or sites with restricted access.
- ✓ Three conveniently located Asbestos Waste Transfer Stations in Essex, London, and Wales.



If you need further advice, information, or assistance in managing asbestos or hazardous waste, please call us on **01708 559966** and a member of our professional and knowledgeable team will be happy to assist.

Minimum standards for disposal of Asbestos Cement (AC)

The below are the minimum standards as recently reinforced by the [Environmental Services Association \(ESA\)](#) for the receipt of Asbestos Cement waste at their landfill sites.

ACCEPTABLE



- 1) Smaller pieces of Asbestos Cement waste **MUST** be double-bagged in UN approved packaging.



- 2) Large pieces of Asbestos Cement waste **MUST** be double-wrapped in 1000-gauge polythene and labelled accordingly.



- 3) Only sealed, lockable skips/containers must be used for transporting Asbestos Cement waste.



NOT ACCEPTABLE



- 1) Broken down, unbagged waste **MUST NOT** be accepted.



- 2) Large Asbestos Cement sheets **MUST NOT** be loose and unwrapped. It's not good enough to line and envelope out an open container in order to bulk-seal Asbestos Cement waste.



- 3) Asbestos Cement **MUST NOT** be transported in open skips/containers. It is not acceptable to throw sheeting over a standard skip.



About Windsor Waste Management

Windsor Waste Management is a market leader in the hazardous waste management industry and significant providers of wider waste management services. We have a wealth of experience and an unrivalled reputation in providing environmentally responsible and fully compliant waste management solutions to the asbestos removal, construction and demolition industries.

A fully licensed and highly accredited recycling and waste management company, our certifications include international standards for environmental management ISO 14001, quality management ISO 9001 and health & safety ISO 45001.



Our other guides in the series:

Understanding Waste Acceptance Criteria (WAC)

Dealing with a Problematic Waste Stream (PWS)

Contact us

Contact a member of our team today for advice on managing your waste!

 **01708 55 99 66**

 **enquiries@winwaste.com**