

Castle Hill High School

Works notification

25 July 2022

Dear staff and parents/carers,

During the school holidays maintenance works at Castle Hill High School included working with asbestos containing material located in the floor tiles in Block A, Block E, and Block L.

The material was bonded asbestos, which means it was attached to the vinyl floor tiles and could not be crumbled by light pressure.

The material was removed during the school holidays between Monday 4 July and Wednesday 6 July 2022 in accordance with the advice of an independent hygienist. Safety measures and monitoring were in place until the removal and associated maintenance work was completed.

Testing was completed by an independent hygienist to ensure the area has been fully remediated and air monitoring samples returned results below the minimum detection limit (i.e. <0.01 fibres/mL). The school received a clearance certificate before the area was open to students and staff.

This area was remediated in accordance with SafeWork NSW regulations and the Department of Education's Asbestos Management Plan. All work was completed by licensed and accredited asbestos contractors, and monitored by occupational hygienists in strict accordance with all applicable legislation, regulations, policies and guidelines.

For more information regarding how the department manages asbestos in public schools please see the FAQ's below. The school asbestos register can be viewed here: schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au/about-us/workingwithus/schools-asbestos-register.

The health, safety, and well-being of the school and the local community is our highest priority. Thank you for your cooperation during this important work.

If you have any further concerns, please contact School Infrastructure NSW on 1300 482 651 or schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au.

For more information contact:

School Infrastructure NSW
Email: schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au
Phone: 1300 482 651
www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au



Managing asbestos in public schools

Factsheet

This factsheet provides Principals and their school community with information about asbestos and how it is managed on NSW school sites. The Department of Education has a rigorous system of maintenance and monitoring at all schools across NSW.

The health, safety and well-being of the community is the Department's highest priority.

How is asbestos managed on school sites?

Hazardous material on public school sites is managed in strict accordance with Safe Work NSW and all applicable legislation, regulations, policies and guidelines including the Department's Asbestos Management Plan for NSW Government Schools.

The plan covers how asbestos is managed on school sites, organisational responsibilities, removal and remediation procedures and ongoing asbestos management.

Any asbestos concerns are reported to the local Asset Management Unit. The Department takes immediate action where necessary, consistent with relevant statutory guidelines. When removing asbestos, work is scheduled to ensure no risk to students, staff or the community.

Where can asbestos be found?

The Department of Education manages a large and diverse portfolio of school infrastructure. Asbestos was commonly used between the 1940s and late 1980s and is present today in materials of the era such as cement sheeting, some old heaters, vinyl floor tiles, insulation and wall lining.

What are the different types of asbestos?

Non-bonded asbestos (friable)

Any material that contains asbestos and is in a powder form or can be crumbled, pulverised or reduced to powder by hand pressure when dry. If disturbed, fibres can become airborne.

Bonded asbestos (non-friable)

Bonded asbestos is attached to other materials such as cement or vinyl and cannot be crumbled or powdered by light pressure.

Vermiculite

Vermiculite is a product that can be combined with asbestos. Test data shows less than 2% of vermiculite in NSW schools contains asbestos. The Department has an ongoing remediation program for vermiculite containing asbestos.

For more information contact:

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Does all asbestos need to be removed?

No. There are several ways to control asbestos, depending on the type of asbestos and its location. Removing the material may not always be the most appropriate way of managing it.

School asbestos registers

Each school has an asbestos register which records all identified and suspected asbestos on the site. The register is publicly available and is consulted before any maintenance or capital works are undertaken at a school.

Informing the Asset Management Unit

All schools are required to notify their local Asset Management Unit (AMU) of any works to be carried out on their site. This includes work that may disturb asbestos containing material (ACM).

Where do I get more information?

If you would like to know more, contact your Principal who is supported by their local Asset Management Unit (AMU).

For more information contact:

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Email: schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au
Phone: 1300 482 651
www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au