

INFORMATION SHEET 7

NON-FRIABLE ASBESTOS

Non-friable asbestos may be removed by a competent contractor, i.e. someone who has the experience and knowledge of working with asbestos without risk to their own or others' lives even if they do not have a certificate of competence for restricted work with asbestos.

WHAT IS NON-FRIABLE ASBESTOS?

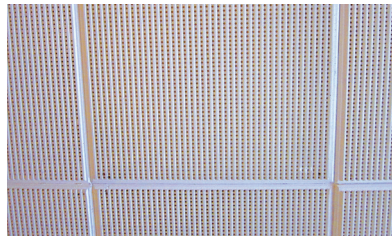
Non-friable asbestos is asbestos that under ordinary circumstances cannot easily be crumbled.

Non-friable asbestos-containing materials (ACMs) are generally materials where asbestos fibres are bonded in a cement, bituminous or resin matrix.

The following photos show examples of ACM-containing products in a non-friable condition. **Note:** non-friable asbestos, including those shown in the photos, becomes friable. If there is any doubt, treat the asbestos as friable.



Non-friable asbestos - corrugated roofing



Non-friable asbestos - ceiling tiles

Non-friable ACMs can become friable due to:

- > age
- > weathering
- > fire damage
- > abrasion
- > water blasting
- > chemical treatment
- > algae attack.



Non-friable asbestos may become friable after being exposed to fire



Non-friable asbestos may become friable after being damaged

WHO MAY WORK WITH NON-FRIABLE ASBESTOS?

Removing or enclosing non-friable asbestos may be carried out by regular contractors. But it must be carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety (Asbestos) Regulations 1998. Precautions when handling and removing non-friable asbestos are described in section 8 of the *New Zealand Guidelines for the Management and Removal of Asbestos*.

WHAT PROCEDURES MUST BE FOLLOWED?

When working with non-friable asbestos:

- > wear a respirator (see our fact sheet on the PPE to use when working with asbestos)
- > minimise dust generation by the following:
 - avoid abrasive cutting
 - use hand (not powered) tools
- > wet the ACM to reduce the release of asbestos fibres
- > do not high-pressure hose or waterblast materials
- > put down plastic drop sheets to collect off-cuts and dust
- > use appropriate vacuum cleaning equipment (our PPE fact sheet has more detail)
- > dispose of asbestos appropriately (see our fact sheet on disposal of asbestos waste).