

Asbestos-removal on the Grenfell Tower site

This leaflet provides information about the removal of asbestos as part of safety works in Grenfell Tower and on the immediate surrounding site.

What is happening and when?

From 28 September: work will begin to convert 20 of the Lancaster West Estate garages into additional staff space, and will take up to three months. This will include the removal of asbestos within the structure of the garages, as it has been recently found within the walls and ceilings. That is not connected to the previous storage of debris in the garages.

Late autumn: work will begin to remove asbestos from inside Grenfell Tower. This will reduce weight on the building; ensure the continued safety of local residents as well as those working in the building; and help enable the safe installation of new 'props' (aluminium supports) to supplement those that were installed shortly after the fire. Read more about these safety works in the 'Publications' section at: www.gov.uk/grenfell-community-updates.

How will it be removed safely?

Asbestos-removal is a common procedure for buildings constructed before the year 2000. All precautions will be taken so that the work is carried out safely. They include:

- Using specialist and licenced contractors, who are approved by the independent regulator – the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) – to work with asbestos.
- Carrying out asbestos removal in accordance with the 2012 Control of Asbestos Regulations: www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/regulations.htm.
- Each area being worked on will be sealed air-tight before works start.
- All removed asbestos will be placed in sealed containers, then promptly removed and disposed of at an off-site facility.
- Contractors will wear protective clothing and will change in secure locations on-site.



We appreciate the concern that asbestos continues to cause to the community. To provide further reassurance, air quality monitoring is being conducted throughout the safety works at Grenfell Tower. The results will be regularly shared, including on the digital signs around the site.

This is additional to the air quality monitoring that Public Health England has been carrying out close to the Tower since 24 June 2017, and which has not identified any causes for concern. Weekly reports on this monitoring are published at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-monitoring-following-the-grenfell-tower-fire.

Has asbestos been found in the soil during the environmental checks programme?

In the exploratory soil sampling during Stage 1 of the two-stage environmental checks, asbestos was found occasionally but always at very low levels. To provide further reassurance, asbestos levels will also be investigated in Stage 2 (October/November). Read more about the environmental checks at: www.gov.uk/guidance/soil-and-environmental-checks.

Will I be affected by asbestos-removal taking place in Grenfell Tower and the surrounding site?

Every precaution is being taken so that this work will be carried out safely. Residents and others can continue to live, work and study as normal around the site, and can continue to use outdoor spaces. You will not need to take any special action during these works.

While there will be some noise created, we are working with our contractors to ensure disruption to residents is as minimal as possible. All work will be carried out from Monday to Friday, starting not earlier than 9am and finishing at 4.30pm. (There will be a break from 12.30–1pm.)

What is asbestos?

Asbestos is a general name given to several, naturally-occurring fibrous minerals that have crystallised into fibres. Until asbestos was banned from use in 1999, asbestos-containing materials were used extensively in common building materials including vinyl flooring, cement panels and artex ceilings.

For more information on residential asbestos, go to: www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/building.htm.

When is asbestos dangerous?

If disturbed or damaged, for example through building works such as drilling or cutting, asbestos fibres can be released. If inhaled, they can cause harm that people often only become aware of several years' later.

While there is not a 'safe' level of asbestos, it is naturally present throughout the environment as a result of historical use.

What should I do if I'm concerned or want more information?

We understand that you may have questions or want more information, and we are available to you for conversations.



Please email us at GrenfellTowerSite@communities.gov.uk or call us on **0303 444 0011**.



You can join the event by clicking onto: bit.ly/21sept2020event. Please email us if you would like us to send the link to you directly, or if you have a specific question that you would like us to answer.



Come along to our Lancaster West Estate drop-in event on Wednesday 23 September, from 4.30pm–6pm, at the rooftop area of the North Kensington Resource Centre, Whitchurch Road (W11 1WF). You will be able to speak to our team about the works and ask questions. This event will follow COVID guidance to ensure public safety.

If you have any concerns about your health, please contact your GP in the first instance.

See the digital signs around the site, which will contain the latest information about the works. This leaflet and all previous updates about these safety works are available online at: www.gov.uk/grenfell-community-updates.