



**CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL
CESSNOCK WASTE & REUSE CENTRE (OLD MAITLAND ROAD CESSNOCK)**

**FACT SHEET
DISPOSAL OF ASBESTOS WASTES COMMENCING 2009**

Asbestos Waste Description

Asbestos Wastes are any wastes containing asbestos. Asbestos is defined by the NSW DECC Waste Classification Guidelines as "Special Waste".

Asbestos wastes can be further classified into two groups:

1. **Friable Asbestos** is any material that contains asbestos and is in the form of powder or can be crumbled, pulverized or reduce to powder by hand pressure when dry. Sprayed limpet, millboard, pipe and boiler lagging are examples of friable asbestos.
2. **Bonded Asbestos** is any material that contains asbestos in a bonded matrix. Examples of bonded asbestos are cement sheets (fibro) bituminous floor tiles/roof sheeting.

Health Hazards

Asbestos dust contains tiny, almost indestructible fibres that can cause damage when they are breathed into the lungs. The most dangerous fibres are the smallest ones which may be invisible to the naked eye, but which penetrate the lungs most deeply.

Pre Requirements for Disposal

Council requires that pre arrangement be made with the Waste & Reuse Centre prior to the asbestos being disposed at the waste centre.

All asbestos waste must be sealed to prevent the release of dust:

- Bags for Asbestos disposal must be heavy duty (not less than 0.2mm in thickness) polythene that are no more than 1.200mm long and 900mm wide.
- Heavy duty plastic (not less than 0.2mm in thickness) to be used for wrapping of asbestos sheeting.
- Waste drums and bins must be lined with plastic (not less than 0.2mm in thickness).

Council requires that asbestos waste in any form "be unloaded in such a manner as to avoid the creation of dust".

The following procedure for the disposal of asbestos wastes at Cessnock Council's waste centre is aimed at ensuring that operations at the waste centre comply with Council policies as well as those of other relevant legislation including the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000.



Procedure for Disposal of Asbestos

- Asbestos wastes must be booked-in by contacting the Cessnock Waste and Reuse Centre on 4993 4333 before 4.00pm on the last weekday prior to the delivery date. Booking details will include the type of asbestos waste, number and size of loads, source of the waste, contact details for the transporter and delivery date. Contact hours are 8.30am – 4.00pm Monday to Friday. Due to operational constraints, guarantee cannot be provided that loads will be accepted on the desired day.
- Asbestos wastes must be delivered to the waste and reuse centre between 8.00am and 10.00am on the Wednesday or Thursday that they are booked. Asbestos wastes will not be received on weekends, public holidays or after 10.00am on Wednesday or Thursday.
- In the event that rain falls during the day or night leading up to the delivery date, customers are advised to contact the waste and reuse centre prior to delivering the load to ensure that site conditions suit the acceptance of asbestos loads. Acceptance is based on an assessment of site safety, trafficability etc.
- Asbestos waste loads will be directed to a designated special waste area of the landfill's active face. Vehicles delivering asbestos wastes should therefore be capable of safely traversing the landfill area.
- Asbestos waste that is in the form of **asbestos fibre and dust** waste must be placed in two (2) sealed, heavy duty bags made from low density polyethylene (LDPE) at least 0.2mm thick. Each bag will have maximum dimensions less than or equal to 1.2m in height and 0.9m in width and a maximum weight of 25kg. Each bag must be marked "CAUTION ASBESTOS" in letters of not less than 40mm in height. These sealed bags must be placed on the ground in a manner which prevents their rupture. Permission will not be given to unload these bags by tipping from a vehicle fitted with a tipping body, which will result in bag rupture.
- Asbestos waste that is in the form of **bonded asbestos** must be presented for disposal and unloaded in a manner which avoids the creation of dust. Where bonded asbestos wastes are not presented and unloaded in the manner prescribed for asbestos fibre and dust wastes, the following procedure will be acceptable:
 - ✓ Thoroughly wet each individual sheet of asbestos waste at their source.
 - ✓ Wrap bundles of wetted sheets in heavy duty builder's type plastic and seal individual bundles with heavy duty tape, such as duct tape. (The size of these bundles should be suited to the method of unloading)
 - ✓ Present loads for inspection by the waste and reuse centre staff as directed by the weighbridge operator
 - ✓ Unload sealed bundles at the area identified by waste and reuse staff in a manner which prevents the rupture of bundles. **Note that it is the responsibility of transporters to deposit waste on the ground at the correct location and with bundles intact**
 - ✗ The practice of "running out" loads deposited by tip trucks causing rupture of plastic wrapping will not be permitted. Waste and reuse centre operators are prohibited from contacting asbestos waste with earthmoving equipment. Loads must be deposited in a compact pile at the identified location to allow the wastes to be covered by operators without the need to first "push-up" the asbestos waste.



Non-Compliance with Required Procedures for Disposal

The potential health impacts associated with asbestos exposure and legislative constraints, Cessnock Council will not tolerate non-compliance with the above procedures for disposal of asbestos wastes.

1. Inappropriate Packaging of Asbestos Waste

Waste and Reuse Centre supervisor who determines the load to be inappropriately packaged and the load is unable to be unloaded in a manner to prevent the rupture will not grant permission to dispose of the asbestos, the driver will be directed to leave the site.

2. Failure to Unload as per Requirements

Where loads are packaged as required but the method of unloading results in bundles rupturing, details of the vehicle and load will be recorded by the waste and reuse centre supervisor and the customer reminded of the Centre's requirements. Should a second load be ruptured when unloading then no further asbestos loads will be accepted from that vehicle until it can be demonstrated that an alternative unloading method will be employed.

Charges

Asbestos wastes will be charge at the advertised Special Waste Rates for the applicable financial year. Fees & Charges are posted on Council's website at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au

Where asbestos wastes are mixed with other wastes, the entire load will be charged at the rate for asbestos.

(Note that the Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 2005 makes it an offence to not comply with special requirements relating to asbestos waste as specified by the Regulation. Such an offence is liable to incur an infringement notice and fine issued by authorised Council or EPA Officers).