

# Asbestos Factsheet: Millboard

**Asbestos millboard is a highly hazardous, low-density insulation material containing 37–97% asbestos (commonly chrysotile) bonded with cement or starch. Used historically for fireproofing and high-temperature insulation (up to 1500°C), it is often found in boilers, furnaces, and electrical equipment. Damaged or disturbed millboard releases dangerous fibers, necessitating professional removal.**

Asbestos millboard, a high-risk material produced by mixing asbestos fibres with starch and clay and moulding them under pressure, saw early production in the UK beginning in the late 19th century.

Due to its excellent fire-resistant and insulating properties, it was primarily used in heat and electrical insulation applications, such as backing for storage heaters, hot water cylinders, electrical cabinets, and as linings for fire doors.

Between 1896 and 1965, these boards often contained dangerous crocidolite (blue) asbestos, though later versions shifted to using amosite (brown) or chrysotile (white) asbestos.

Asbestos millboard is considered a high-risk material because it is brittle and typically contains high concentrations of asbestos, allowing fibres to be released easily when disturbed. While blue and brown asbestos were banned in 1985, all asbestos, including chrysotile found in some later insulating products, was banned by the Asbestos (Prohibitions) (Amendment) Regulations 1999.

**Asbestos Millboards are only harmful if they are disturbed, or damaged. The material poses no risk to occupants while it is undisturbed.**

## Chrysotile or White Asbestos



## Asbestos Millboard

Asbestos millboard is a highly hazardous, soft, and fibrous material that typically appears in white or off-white sheets, though it can sometimes be coloured.

Extensively used between 1896 and 1965, this material was common for lining boilers, kilns, foundries, and ovens, as well as serving as heat-resistant pads for stove tops and in electrical switchboards.

It poses a significant health risk because it is very fragile and friable, meaning it releases fibres easily when cut, sanded, or damaged.



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## What Hjaltland Housing Association are doing to Keep You Safe:

- We carry out surveys on identified properties and monitor and maintain asbestos in these properties.
- Where works are required, we assess the asbestos information we have for the property and where required carry out a further asbestos survey to ensure as far as possible asbestos is identified and taken into account when planning.
- Where day to day repairs are required, we provide Hjaltland Housing Association employees and contractors with the associated asbestos information for that property.
- We ensure our employees and contractors undertake regular asbestos awareness training.
- Our aim is to remove all asbestos from a property between tenancies, however where this is not possible a full management inspection will be carried out at the property.
- We maintain a register of all asbestos identified and assumed and where removals have taken place to ensure the effective management and monitoring of the asbestos safety process.
- If your home is known to have, or is at risk of having asbestos, we will let you know and tell you what you need to do to ensure asbestos is not disturbed.

**Asbestos Millboard will be inspected every 5 years.**

If you are concerned you can contact us on **01595 694986** or by emailing **mail@hjaltland.org**.

**Asbestos millboard was a high-density, fireproof board (37-97% asbestos) commonly used for heat insulation, fire protection, and electrical insulation in buildings and industrial settings.**

## What YOU can do to Keep Yourself Safe:

Contact us before undertaking any DIY work which would disturb the fabric of the building. The Association will be able to provide further information to you.

### **Asbestos Millboard**

All asbestos millboard is found encapsulated beneath the floor within the Solum. This type of millboard is acting as an insulation to your property. There is no need for tenants to enter this space. Should something occur that entry to the solum is required please contact the Association immediately.

### **If the material is damaged**

As all asbestos millboard is encapsulated it is highly unlikely it will become damaged, however inspections will continue every 5 years to ensure this remains the case.

**If you are worried about asbestos, please call the Association immediately.** We will send a Technical Officer to inspect the material and take necessary actions. If we find there is a problem we will arrange for the damage to be repaired or the asbestos to be removed and disposed of safely.