



CHILTON TOWN COUNCIL

Asbestos Management Policy / Process for Allotments

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Chilton Town Council

Asbestos was widely used by the construction industry before 1995. Products such as cement sheets, roof panels, ceiling tiles, ceiling coatings and PVC floor tiles may all contain asbestos. The presence of asbestos is not a health hazard. It is only a risk to health when asbestos fibres are released into the air and inhaled.

Every person has an obligation to ensure that asbestos is managed in line with the below policy so as not to endanger other person/s.

The Council will carry out Management Surveys annually to locate the presence and extent of materials containing asbestos. A record of these inspections will be kept in the Town Council Office. A notice will also be displayed on allotment sites summarising the location of asbestos.

Should the initial Management Survey show that asbestos contained on the site requires to be removed, due to its condition, then this will be provided at the cost of the Council and no prior permission will be required from the plot holder, but every effort would be made to notify them.

Once identified Asbestos has been deemed as safe to leave in situ, it is the Tenants responsibility to ensure it remains untouched, undamaged and that any warning stickers are still in plain sight. Any adverse deterioration of the Asbestos will be deemed to be the Tenant's responsibility and the Council will recover costs from that Tenant.

It is no longer acceptable to bring asbestos onto allotment sites for re-use, and existing asbestos on site should not be moved, damaged, or re-used again. Any Asbestos brought onto the site will incur testing and disposal costs which will be recovered from the Tenant.

Emergency. In case of an accidental release of asbestos fibres the following actions must be carried out:

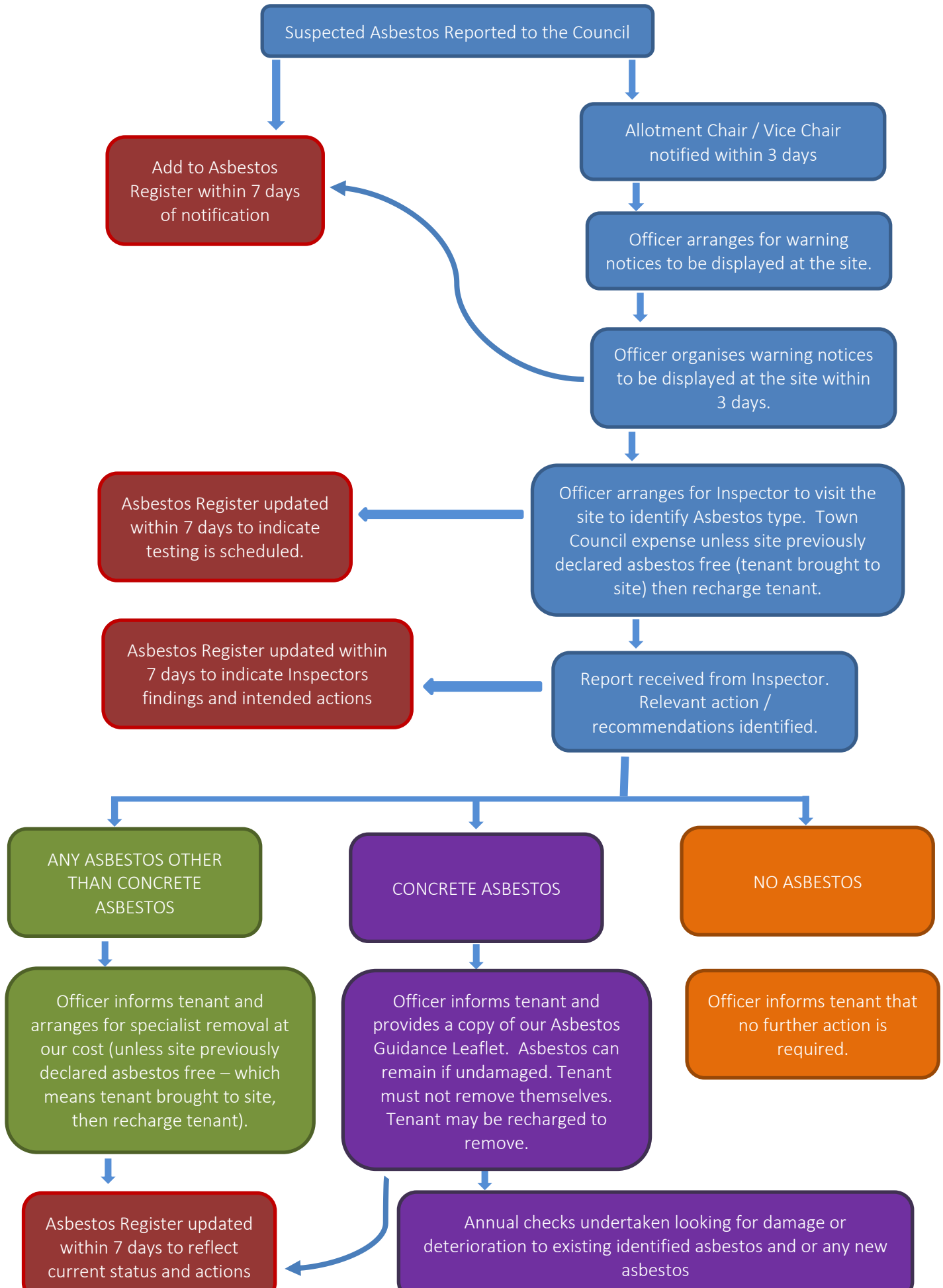
The incident must be reported to Chilton Town Council immediately. All work must cease and the potentially contaminated area must be sealed off. A specialist asbestos contractor to be called to site at the allotment holder's expense to rectify the issue, using approved contractors.

The HSE provide a policy for good practice of disposing of asbestos waste, which can be found at www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/essentials/index.htm. Chilton Town Council have an Asbestos guidance document which provides more information.

This policy must be adhered to at all times when handling/disposing of asbestos waste, so as not to endanger other persons.

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Asbestos Management Policy/Process for Allotments



Asbestos Guidance Leaflet

Introduction

As an allotment holder you may come across asbestos cement products on your plot. This information sheet will help you to deal with them safely and responsibly.

Safety note: asbestos is harmful and can kill.

Only asbestos cement can be handled by the public, and even then safety precautions must be taken.

However, our advice is do not handle it, report it to the Town Council. If you find or suspect that any other form of asbestos may be present, do not try to deal with it yourself. Report it to the Town Council on 01388 721788.

Identifying asbestos

Asbestos was commonly used in buildings and as fire-proofing from the 1950s to the mid-1980s. It has been used in many products including ceiling tiles, pipe insulation, spray coatings and boilers. The kind of asbestos that you are most likely to encounter on an allotment is asbestos cement.



Asbestos cement is a mixture of asbestos (usually about 10-15% of the total product) and cement. It is often seen as corrugated roofing panels on sheds, farms and industrial buildings, but can also be used to make drain pipes, flues and water tanks. It is usually grey/white in colour, hard and inflexible. There are 3 different kinds of asbestos known as "white", "blue" and "brown" but please note that the colour of the product will not tell you what kind of asbestos has been used and they are all dangerous.

Why is asbestos a health risk?

It is when asbestos fibres are breathed into the lungs that it presents a risk of developing serious or even fatal diseases such as lung cancer, mesothelioma and asbestosis. This is why asbestos waste has to be dealt with so carefully.

Asbestos cement is often regarded as being lower risk than other forms of asbestos as the fibres are bonded into the cement and are not easily released. However, you will be at risk if you wire brush, sand, drill, saw, cut or otherwise damage asbestos cement products.

What should I do if I find asbestos on my allotment? If there is asbestos cement sheeting on your allotment and the sheets are in good condition, not likely to become damaged and you are happy for them to remain (e.g. as the roof of a shed you wish to use) then it is safe to leave them as they are. Asbestos cement is very durable, and the sheets only present a risk of releasing fibres if they are damaged. You should however report it to the Town Council on 01388 721788 who keep an Asbestos register.

However, if the sheets are in poor condition, and you wish to remove them, or you have discovered fly tipped asbestos waste on your plot then please report it to the Town Council.