

Toolbox Talk: Asbestos Awareness for Window Cleaners

Insert Company Logo Here
Insert Company Name & Address Here
Toolbox Talk Ref: Asbestos Awareness
Page: 1 of 3

Purpose

To ensure operatives understand the risks associated with asbestos-containing materials when carrying out window cleaning or exterior cleaning work.

Legal Duty

Under the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012, employers must prevent workers from being exposed to asbestos fibres. Workers must not disturb asbestos-containing materials unless properly trained and authorised.

Why This Matters

Buildings constructed before 2000 may contain asbestos. Window cleaners may encounter asbestos materials while working around garage roofs, soffits, fascia boards, gutters, cladding panels and roof sheets.

Health Risks

Breathing asbestos fibres can cause serious diseases including mesothelioma, lung cancer and asbestosis. Symptoms may take many years to develop.

Where Asbestos Might Be Found

• Corrugated garage or shed roofs • Soffits and fascia boards • Cladding panels on industrial buildings • Cement roof sheets • Older insulation boards

What Window Cleaners Must NOT Do

• Do not pressure wash asbestos roofs or panels • Do not scrape, brush or disturb asbestos materials • Do not drill, cut or sand asbestos surfaces • Do not climb or place ladders on fragile asbestos roofs, sheet or cladding. Do not attempt to clean, remove moss or debris from asbestos

Safe Working Practices

• Assume materials could contain asbestos if unsure • Avoid direct contact with suspect materials • Use alternative cleaning methods where possible • Report suspected asbestos immediately • Ensure risk assessments consider asbestos risks

Insert Company Logo Here
Insert Company Name & Address Here
Toolbox Talk Ref: Asbestos Awareness
Page: 3 of 3

WCA Member Disclaimer

This document is provided by the Window Cleaners Association (WCA) as general safety guidance for members. It does not replace formal asbestos awareness training, risk assessments, or professional health and safety advice. Employers remain responsible for ensuring work complies with current UK asbestos legislation and HSE guidance.

Recommended HSE Sources

HSE – Asbestos guidance: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/> HSE – Control of Asbestos Regulations: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/regulations.htm> HSE – Asbestos essentials: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg223.pdf>