

Cleaning asbestos cement roofs



Caution: Using water blasters on asbestos cement roofs is illegal.

Fibro roofs (such as 'Super Six' and 'fibro cement') contain asbestos and must not be cleaned using a water blaster.

Cleaning a fibro roof with a high pressure water blaster is illegal as it can destroy the roof surface, cause cement debris and asbestos to spray into the air, and result in widespread contamination.

It is very difficult to contain asbestos fibres released during the process and very expensive to clean up. It puts you and your neighbours' health at risk.

Homeowners can be fined up to \$10 000 for water blasting a fibro roof, as well as any additional costs associated with clean-up. Businesses may face heavier fines.

Well maintained asbestos cement roofs are not a risk to human health unless they are physically disturbed or being worked on. They can be left alone until they are no longer water tight.

Commercial fungicides and sealants have been developed that can be applied to fibro roofs, avoiding the need to clean them.

Instead of cleaning an asbestos cement roof, apply a fungicide or sealant or consider replacing it.

You can find out more about sealants and fungicides from your local roof restoration company, paint supplier or hardware store.

For more information about asbestos visit www.worksafe.qld.gov.au or call the Workplace Health and Safety Infoline on **1300 369 915**.

Queensland Health also provides further information on identifying asbestos, the health risks of asbestos, what it looks like and more information on handling asbestos safely. Call **1300 QH INFO (1300 744 636)** or visit www.health.qld.gov.au/asbestos.



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