

Table 1: Residential risk assessment based on age of home, presence of asbestos-containing materials and activities that could increase or decrease risk to people

Building age	Possible asbestos-containing materials present	Status of asbestos-containing materials if present	Activities impacting asbestos-containing materials and exposure	Risk level
Pre-1940 unrenovated	None likely			None or negligible risk
Pre-1940, renovations performed 1950–1985	Exterior – corrugated cement roofing, Fibrolite or Hardiplank cladding, Fibrolite eaves	Cracks, chips or breaks in roofing or exterior cement sheeting (walls and eaves)	Materials wet during removal, not sanded or drilled, OR materials sealed/encapsulated	Extremely low risk
			Present when damaged materials were sanded or drilled	Possible short-term exposure – very low risk
		Materials undamaged and well-maintained (sealed and painted)		Extremely low risk
	Interior – textured ceilings, wall linings, vinyl flooring	Decorative ceiling crumbling or removed, vinyl flooring uplifted or old wall board crushed or drilled	Present during removal, but clean-up thorough	Possible short-term exposure – very low risk
			Home furnishings contaminated with dust, not cleaned or removed	Low risk but possible ongoing low-level exposure*
		Materials intact		Extremely low risk
1940–1990	Exterior – corrugated cement roofing, Fibrolite or Hardiplank cladding, Fibrolite eaves	Cracks, chips or breaks in roofing or exterior cement sheeting (walls and eaves)	Materials wet during removal, not sanded or drilled, OR materials sealed/encapsulated	Extremely low risk
			Present when damaged materials were sanded or drilled	Possible short-term exposure – very low risk
		Materials undamaged and well maintained (sealed and painted)		Extremely low risk
	Interior – textured ceilings, wall linings, vinyl flooring	Decorative ceiling crumbling or removed, vinyl flooring uplifted or old wall board crushed or drilled	Present during removal but clean-up thorough	Possible short-term exposure – very low risk
			Home furnishings contaminated with dust, not cleaned or removed	Low risk but possible ongoing low-level exposure*
		Materials intact		Extremely low risk
Post-1990	None likely			None or negligible risk

■ = possible presence of a hazard but probable low risk, ■ = minimised risk, ■ = ongoing presence of the hazard and higher risk.

* 'Risk' depends on the amount of asbestos-containing materials and extent of disturbance/works carried out. Although the risk is low in absolute terms, it will increase with time if steps are not taken to remove the asbestos fibres after work has been completed.