Using damp rags to clean surfaces of minor asbestos contamination

Equipment and method sheet

What this sheet covers

This sheet explains how to use rags to clean minor asbestos contamination from smooth, non-absorbent surfaces and equipment.

Equipment

- Bucket of water
- Either cotton rags that do not shed fluff onto clean surfaces, or impregnated rags (eg ‘Tak’ rags)
- Adhesive tape, to collect small dust deposits
- Asbestos waste container, eg labelled polythene sack

Procedures

- Pick up bigger pieces of debris and put them in a suitable waste container.

Rags

- Impregnated rags do not need soaking.
- Soak the rag in water. Fold in half or quarters. Wring it out.
- Wipe the contaminated surface.
- Re-fold the rag to give a clean surface.
- Repeat until you have used all the clean surfaces of the rag.
- Put the used rag in a bag. Get a clean rag, and repeat cleaning until all surfaces are clean.

Caution: Never re-soak a contaminated rag. This contaminates the water.

Tape

- Tape is useful only for removing small dust deposits. Surfaces may need repeated tape applications.
- Place a strip of tape over the contaminated surface. Peel it off slowly.
- Put the used tape in a bag. Repeat with a fresh piece.

Wastes

- Put bags of used rags and tape in a suitable asbestos waste container.
- Tape the container closed.
- If you avoid contaminating the bucket of water, no special precautions are need for water disposal.
- See sheet em9 for disposal.
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