



### SILICOSIS: EVERYTHING OLD IS NEW AGAIN

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Silicosis is a life limiting disease caused by exposure to crystalline silica - a natural mineral found in construction materials such as concrete, bricks, tiles, and manufactured stone. When these materials are ground, cut, drilled, sanded, or demolished, inhaling the dust can cause deadly lung and respiratory diseases such as silicosis.

This is not a recent discovery. In NSW the Silicosis Joint Committee was established in 1927 following enactment of the Workmen's Compensation (Silicosis) Act 1920). In those days exposure was mainly through the mining and quarrying industries.

In recent times exposure has increased dramatically following the popularity of stone kitchen benches. Previously around **20 workers were diagnosed with silicosis each year – that has jumped to 150.** These are mostly younger men who work in trades. Manufactured stone is cheaper than the real thing and many times more dangerous.



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The Australian government has established the National Dust Disease Taskforce to gauge the size of the problem. A recent study by Curtin University estimated that 100,000 people will be diagnosed in coming years. Silicosis is a death sentence – there is no cure.

Safework SA has published new guidance on managing the risks of silica dust across the construction industry, which can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/px4zbju7>

Workers must be trained in handling the material safely and should wear respiratory protective equipment. Workshops should have dust extraction and ensure workers wear a properly fitting mask—a mask can't protect you if it doesn't fit your face. If it doesn't fit properly, contaminated air can leak into the facepiece, and you could breathe in hazardous substances. There should be no facial hair lying between the skin and the mask being worn.

If you work with manufactured stone, or know someone who does, please read and act on the Safework SA fact sheet : <https://tinyurl.com/px4zbju7> – you could save someone's life, and it might be your own.

## Asbestos Safety & Eradication Agency launches awareness campaign

The Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency has launched a new campaign to inform residential property buyers, sellers, tenants and landlords of their rights and responsibilities.

Asbestos is still found in one in three Australian dwellings, with homes built before 1990 often containing asbestos materials both inside and outside the property.

The agency's CEO, Justine Ross, says it is vital people are aware of their rights and obligations when buying, selling or renting a home. The campaign aims to encourage sellers to disclose the presence of asbestos in their properties, to minimise the health risks for buyers.

"In some states and territories, they may be legally obligated to do this," she said.

The agency also hopes to encourage landlords to identify, disclose and manage the presence of asbestos in their properties. Landlords may be eligible for tax deductions if they undertake asbestos testing and removal, she said.

"The outcome we are hoping to achieve is to educate buyers and renters about how to stay safe around asbestos, by understanding where it might be in a home and how to manage it appropriately," Ms Ross said.

The agency has developed a number of new resources on the rights and obligations of buyers, sellers, tenants and landlords to accompany the campaign. They include a property disclosure tool, information videos and a fact sheet on arranging an asbestos assessment. For further information go to the ASEA website <https://tinyurl.com/ycyu6p7d>



**IF THE HOME YOU ARE BUYING WAS BUILT BEFORE 1990  
IT CAN CONTAIN DANGEROUS ASBESTOS**

**THINK TWICE  
ABOUT ASBESTOS**

**FIND OUT WHERE ASBESTOS MIGHT BE - 4 COMMON PLACES ARE:**

**1 EXTERIOR**  
roof sheeting, gutters, downpipes, ridge capping, eaves, cladding, electrical switchboards



**2 BACKYARD**  
fences, sheds, garages, carports, buried or dumped waste



**4 WET AREAS - BATHROOM, LAUNDRY AND KITCHEN**  
wall and ceiling panels, vinyl floor tiles, backing for wall tiles and splashbacks, hot water pipe insulation



**3 INTERNAL AREAS**  
wall and ceiling panels, carpet underlay, insulation in domestic heaters



**ASBESTOS MATERIALS BECOME DANGEROUS WHEN**



**BROKEN OR IN POOR CONDITION**



**DAMAGED ACCIDENTALLY**



**DISTURBED DURING RENOVATION OR REPAIRS**



**1. CONTACT A PROFESSIONAL  
OR  
2. VISIT A GOVERNMENT WEBSITE**

asbestos safety 



## 2022 Asbestos Safety and Management Conference

AVA delegates attended the Asbestos Safety & Management Conference held in Leura, in the Blue Mountains.

The event, co-hosted by Blue Mountains City Council and the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency (ASEA), attracted participants from councils across Australia as well as state and federal government agencies and the safety industry. International delegates from Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Indonesia also attended.



AVA personnel Brendan, Maxine, & Gloria, lawyer Annie Hoffman from Turner Freeman, AVA's Lesley & Doreen.

"Collaboration between those working on the front line, dealing with asbestos related issues day to day, with those who shape the policies, laws and practices within the asbestos safety management space, is essential to ensuring the system can effectively deal with Australia's asbestos legacy," said ASEA Chief Executive Officer Justine Ross.

We learned about the methods used by several NSW local councils to educate householders about asbestos. They included

- ◆ Giving out Household Asbestos Testing kits to correctly identify asbestos materials in their home
- ◆ Secure bags for testing samples
- ◆ Subsidising the cost of asbestos waste disposal - free or reduced cost at local waste sites.

The aim of these initiatives was to reduce illegal asbestos dumping. There were lessons to be learned that could benefit South Australians, something AVA will be looking at in coming months.



## WHICH BIN?

The answer is **NONE OF THEM** – asbestos must **not** be disposed of in any Council bins.

It is illegal to dispose of asbestos waste in domestic bins.

Do not dispose of asbestos during council 'hard rubbish' collections or dump waste illegally.

Do not reuse or recycle asbestos waste.

- ◆ Contact your local [EPA approved asbestos waste disposal facility](#) for advice on disposal requirements as well as the cost of disposal.
- ◆ As soon as possible after completing the building work, securely transport and dispose of the packages to [your local asbestos waste disposal facility](#).
- ◆ Alternatively, hire a mini-skip from a company that specialises in asbestos waste removal and fill it with your bagged asbestos waste and have it collected by the waste company.

## Local Councils

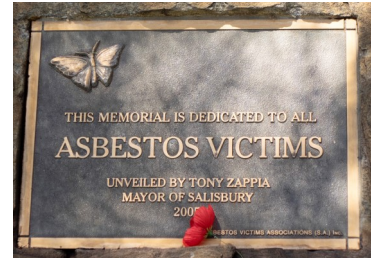
Have you had an issue with your local council about asbestos? Please contact us about your experience. Phone us on 8212 6008 or 0455 120 588, or email [admin@avasa.asn.au](mailto:admin@avasa.asn.au)

## Diary Dates

### Asbestos Victims Memorial Day

**DATE: 25 November 2022**

**VENUE: Pitman Park SALISBURY**



### 2022 Bunnings Trade Expo Adelaide Showgrounds Thursday 29 September 2022

AVA will have a stand at Bunnings Trade Expo at Wayville Showgrounds in September this year. There will be a focus on health and wellbeing for Bunnings' Trade customers, with some organisations offering health checks. AVA be there to talk to tradies about asbestos hazards.

### Lunch at Mt Compass

Our Adelaide team met with AVA's Fleurieu representative **Catherine Wegener** and supporter June Taylor at the Mount Compass Tavern. The time spent together enabled us to exchange ideas and make plans for future campaigns.



AVA members at a recent regional meeting at Mt Compass.



Catherine welcomes contact from people on the Fleurieu who may be living with asbestos disease or who have lost a loved one to asbestos disease. Her compassionate manner and understanding can make a world of difference. Please contact AVA on 8212 6008 or 0455 120 588 and we will pass on your details to Catherine.

Catherine Wegener,  
AVA's Fleurieu representative

## SOCIAL DIARY

Social mornings at 60 Waymouth Street:  
Wednesdays 27 July, 24 August, 28 September, 26 October, 23 November.



## AVA THANKS THE FOLLOWING MAJOR SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

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