



Managers - Please ensure all employees receive a copy of this Safety Action Bulletin

For: Heads of all Establishments/Settings
OCC Managers
Governors/Management Committees
Trade Union Safety Representatives
Employee Noticeboards
Intranet

Issue SAB 35
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Bunsen burner mats

Background

During the current asbestos survey programme, it has been identified that some old Bunsen burner mats (age Pre 2000) are still in use. A few have been tested and this has identified that they contain asbestos. Please see below two photographs for identification purposes.



Although there have been only a small number of these seen, the risks associated with exposure to asbestos warrants the following actions.

Issued by the Health and Safety Team, Customer Services, Unipart House, Garsington Road, OXFORD, OX4 2GQ


General Information

- The mats are used for prevention of heat transfer purposes usually associated with Science.
- They could be used by several other curriculum departments such as Art and D&T.
- They have different designs, dimensions and shapes (please see photographs above).
- Unless it can be proven that they are manufactured after 2000 then it has to be presumed they contain asbestos.
- All areas which contain stored items should be checked as they may have been stored away for many years and forgotten.
- The risk from the mats is very low if they are undamaged.
- Any damaged mats should not be touched but arrangements must be made for their proper disposal.

What should a manager do?

- All departments should check their work spaces including all storage areas.
- Any general storage areas should be checked as they could be stored away from the point of use.
- Any damaged or broken mats should be left and reported immediately to the Schools Health and Safety Team. The area should be locked and no access should be granted to anyone unless they are a competent asbestos contractor.
- If any are found and are undamaged then use two robust bin liners to double bag them and seal the bags. Ideally use 1000 gauge polythene to double wrap.
- The bagged mats should be locked away so no one has access to them.
- A warning label should be attached to the bag identifying possible asbestos content.
- Contact the Schools Health and Safety Team on 01865 797222 to arrange removal as hazardous waste.
- If you need any advice or assistance then please contact the Schools Health and Safety team.

For Further Information and Advice:

	Email and web addresses	
General:		
Health & Safety Team	healthandsafetyhelp@oxfordshire.gov.uk web address non schools: http://intranet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/links/intranet/healthandsafety web address schools: http://schools.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/node/499	01865 797222