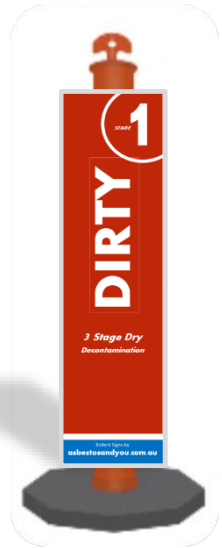


# Personal De-contamination Guide

## Non-friable asbestos removals – 3 Stage dry decontamination

Guidance Note GN-01 – February 2024



1. Move to the external fringe of the removal zone and clean down PPE i.e. clean suits, mask and boots with wet sprays, wipes and/or with a HEPA vacuum and clean brush attachment.  
Keep all PPE on.



2. Move to designated Decon Area defined by a drop sheet as a minimum where a clean 200 micron bag is set up for disposal of suits and gloves only.  
Note - do not combine dirty PPE with other contaminated asbestos waste in the same bag.
3. LEAVE YOUR MASK ON DURING THIS PROCESS.
4. Remove gloves and disposable suit inside out and dispose both in designated clean bag.
5. Clean boots with wipes or vacuum once more. Dispose of wipes in same bag.
6. If completing work (instead of a break), lift up drop sheet and place in bag and seal/gooseneck. Otherwise keep clean.
7. Place this first sealed bag inside second bag and goose/seal closed to complete double bagging.



8. Move to designated clean area where a clean 200 micron bag is set up with a drop sheet. Dispose of drop sheet in bag if final use of clean area (i.e. job complete).
9. Wet wipe or wash exposed skin including hands, forearms, forehead and neck while mask is still on.
10. Dispose of wipes/cleaning media in bag.
11. Then remove mask (the last PPE to come off), and dispose of pre-filters and main filters as necessary.
12. Wet wipe or wash face where mask once was.
13. Clean mask thoroughly. If using disposable mask, dispose of completely.
14. Dispose of final wipes in first bag. Gooseneck and seal bag. Double bag and seal same way to complete.
15. Store mask with main filter covered/sealed if retained on mask. E.g. tape over.
16. Dispose of waste at an EPA approved waste facility.



## Do's

- ✓ Always use a separate clean bag to dispose of dirty Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to minimise cross contamination.
- ✓ Always perform the quick seal and valve test of the respirator on your face daily (the fit check), keep it clean and maintained throughout the day. Prevent cross contamination from filters during storage.
- ✓ Always use an asbestos rated "HEPA" or "H" rated vacuum. If using the vacuum for decontamination, always have a clean brush designated for personal decontamination. A spray marker paint colour on the brush can help define the difference from other removal zone brushes.
- ✓ Always use air monitoring results to give you a final clearance in the area you were performing removal, particularly in an indoor environment, combined with visual assessment by the Asbestos Assessor for licensed removal work.
- ✓ Always work with the Asbestos Assessor to ensure you are both covering off all areas for clean-up during final inspection.
- ✓ Always suppress or minimise dust at the source and during disturbance to prevent contamination. This will also help minimise dust around your breathing zone (e.g. ensuring you are not relying exclusively on respiratory protection).
- ✓ Consider the use of negative air units in confined or indoor environments to extract contaminated air away from sensitive locations in the building, the clean change area, and quickly away from your breathing zone. In other words, this is a way of introducing clean air while filtering dirty air out of the zone (a clean air exchange), and improving worker conditions with additional air movement.
- ✓ Always use a surfactant (e.g. a mild detergent, or PVA glue) with your spray equipment. Remember asbestos fibre is hydrophobic.
- ✓ Always ensure your mask is the last piece of PPE to be removed during personal decontamination.

## Don'ts

- ✗ Don't combine dirty PPE in the same bag with other asbestos waste generated on site during personal decontamination.
- ✗ Don't store your mask with the front face of the filter unsealed in the same container/bag.
- ✗ Don't assume the air is clear of airborne asbestos just because the area visually appears clean.
- ✗ Don't interpret good air monitoring results from sample testing on the perimeter or remote from the work, in comparison to the location of the actual disturbance where there will likely be higher dust concentrations – i.e. in the removal/PPE zone.
- ✗ Don't go back into the removal zone without PPE until final clearances are given.

### Disclaimer:

This is a guide only and is in no way a substitution, replacement, or direction in lieu of your own safe work procedures and on-site training/supervision. PCBU's are responsible for ensuring safe decontamination relevant to the situation, asbestos work being carried out, and specific risk identified for that site. All work should be carried out in accordance with the approved Asbestos Codes of Practice requirements, relevant to your own jurisdiction.