How do you deal with it?

Asbestos is best left undisturbed. As there is asbestos in most of our council homes, it is not possible to remove all asbestos.

We hold asbestos information for most of our properties and we keep the information on our database. The information forms part of our ongoing management which will help to build up a picture of all of our properties.

Once assessed, if the material is in a poor condition, or if any tradespeople need to work on or near it, and it is likely to be disturbed, then the asbestos-containing material will be removed and disposed of safely.

We have our own asbestos department that can deal with any asbestos-related safety issues or concerns. Contact 0300 555 8283.

We also have a dedicated team that are specially trained in dealing with asbestos products in our housing as well as using approved licensed contractors, approved by the Health and Safety Executive, to remove any harmful asbestos. We make sure we do everything we can to comply with the law when controlling asbestos.

When dealing with any material that contains asbestos in your home we will not put your health and safety at any risk as any asbestos work will be carried out in a controlled environment to ensure the release of fibres is below legal limits.

If you own your own home or are a Leaseholder

If you are a leaseholder or you own your own home, we are not responsible for asbestos in your home.

We are only responsible for asbestos in communal blocks and communal areas that are shared between properties that are owned by the council.

If you rent your home from a private landlord, it is their responsibility for any asbestos in the house.

We hold asbestos information for most of our properties and we keep the information on our database. The information forms part of our ongoing management which will help to build up a picture of all of our properties.

Once assessed, if the material is in a poor condition, or if any tradespeople need to work on or near it, and it is likely to be disturbed, then the asbestos-containing material will be removed and disposed of safely.

We have our own asbestos department that can deal with any asbestos-related safety issues or concerns. Contact 0300 555 8283.

We also have a dedicated team that are specially trained in dealing with asbestos products in our housing as well as using approved licensed contractors, approved by the Health and Safety Executive, to remove any harmful asbestos. We make sure we do everything we can to comply with the law when controlling asbestos.

When dealing with any material that contains asbestos in your home we will not put your health and safety at any risk as any asbestos work will be carried out in a controlled environment to ensure the release of fibres is below legal limits.

Asbestos was used in many homes across the country. It was a very popular building material because it could be used in many situations and was very robust. Asbestos is resistant to heat and chemicals and was often used as fire protection and it has probably saved many lives in recent years. Asbestos was also used as sound proofing, insulation and it was also used to strengthen other materials.

As using asbestos in buildings was not stopped in the United Kingdom until 1999, it is likely that your home will contain some asbestos somewhere. It could also be in personal items such as ironing boards or old appliances.

If your home does contain asbestos there is no need to worry. If asbestos is in good condition and has not been disturbed or damaged, it will not cause any harm or danger to your health.
What is asbestos?
Asbestos is a naturally occurring minerals that can be mined. Asbestos is found in different types of rock that are crushed or broken so the asbestos can be extracted. Most asbestos in the UK has been imported and has been used in buildings for many years.

There are several types of asbestos but there are 3 main types more commonly found in the home:
- Chrysotile (white asbestos) - This is the least harmful type of asbestos
- Crocidolite (blue asbestos) - This is the most harmful type of asbestos
- Grunerite (Formally known as Amosite - Brown asbestos) - This is more harmful than white asbestos but less harmful than blue asbestos

The most common type of asbestos found in the home is white asbestos, which is the least harmful.

To know if a material contains asbestos, a sample of the material needs to be taken and examined by an accredited laboratory. You cannot tell if a material contains asbestos by just looking at it.

Where is asbestos found?
There may be asbestos found in the following places in your home:
- Sofits
- Roof felt
- Garage roofs/wall panels
- Ceiling tiles
- Textured coating, e.g. artex
- Partition walls
- Floor tiles
- Pipe boxing
- Bath panels
- Boilers
- Water heaters
- Water tanks
- Storage heaters
- Insulation
- Door and wall linings to boiler cupboards
- Fire doors
- Fire breaks
- Flue pipes

These are the most common places asbestos is likely to be found however as asbestos was a popular and cheap building material there may be other places asbestos could be found in your home.

Any new materials used or replaced in your home after the year 2000 will be asbestos free, unless older materials were used to replace them.

Why might asbestos be a problem?
There is no need to worry about most asbestos in your home as there are only low amounts in council homes and most of it will be in good condition.

The only way asbestos fibres can have an affect on your health is if they are disturbed or damaged; this could either be by accident, when carrying out DIY or carrying out building work. In these cases asbestos fibres may be released and if a large amount is inhaled, this could have an effect on your health.

To reduce any risks avoid drilling, breaking, sawing, sanding or cutting asbestos. Don’t carry out any work or remove any material that you think may contain asbestos and if you are in doubt and not sure whether a material contains asbestos, treat the material as though it does.

Do not damage the suspected material and telephone the Repairs Management Centre on 0300 555 8283.