

Tappings on asbestos pipe

When Barwon Water receives a new [tapping application](#) from a **Plumber**, Barwon Water's **Connections Team** will advise if the main is listed as 'asbestos cement - AC'.

Any works on AC mains require a licenced Class A asbestos removalist (licenced **Asbestos Contractor**) to conduct the excavation, remove all contaminated materials and obtain a clearance certificate by an independent (qualified) person. This is due to the risk of the asbestos being in friable form.

Definitions

Clearance certificate A clearance certificate is a written statement that a specific area where asbestos removal work has taken place has had specified asbestos-containing materials removed and has been cleaned of any visible asbestos containing debris associated with the removal. The clearance certificate must be completed by an independent person before the areas where the asbestos removal work was performed are re-occupied.

Friable asbestos is high risk. Friable asbestos can be crumbled, pulverised or reduced to a powder by hand pressure.

Non-friable asbestos is lower risk. It is mixed with cement or other hard bonding materials. Non-friable asbestos can become friable if damaged or old.

The **Plumber** has the obligation to cover all costs of the **Asbestos Contractor** and is expected to plan and cost this into their work.

Barwon Water have licenced **asbestos contractors** listed on our services panel and contact details can be made available.

After the **Plumber** has completed any necessary service location and road opening permits, the licenced **asbestos contractor** who will be aware of [WorkSafe](#) requirements when working near asbestos will:

- Excavate the trench using mechanical method to approximately 100mm of the main and complete the excavation by hand (NOTE: non-destructive digging will not be used for the excavation)
- Prepare the site for the tapping in accordance with the [Tapping requirements information sheet](#)
- Obtain extra soil for backfill. Or this can be arranged by the **Plumber**.

Although there are EPA guidelines that allow soil that contains no visible asbestos or other contaminants be returned as fill, Barwon Water expects that the soil be removed as the highest level of risk control, not stockpiled.

Once the excavation is complete and site prepared, Barwon Asset Solutions (BAS) will complete the tapping in accordance with their safe working procedures.

If the **Plumber** and their licenced **Asbestos Contractor** cannot meet all of the above criteria, the tapping will be cancelled and will need to be re-booked.

Information sources:

Asbestos.vic.gov.au

<https://www.asbestos.vic.gov.au/in-the-workplace/employers/employers-who-own-their-building/removing-or-disposing-of-asbestos>

WorkSafe Victoria

<https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/asbestos>

Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria

EPA Publication 1968.1: *Guidelines to Classifying Industrial Waste*

EPA Publication IWRG702 Soil Sampling

EPA Publication 1828.2 Waste disposal categories – characteristics and thresholds

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