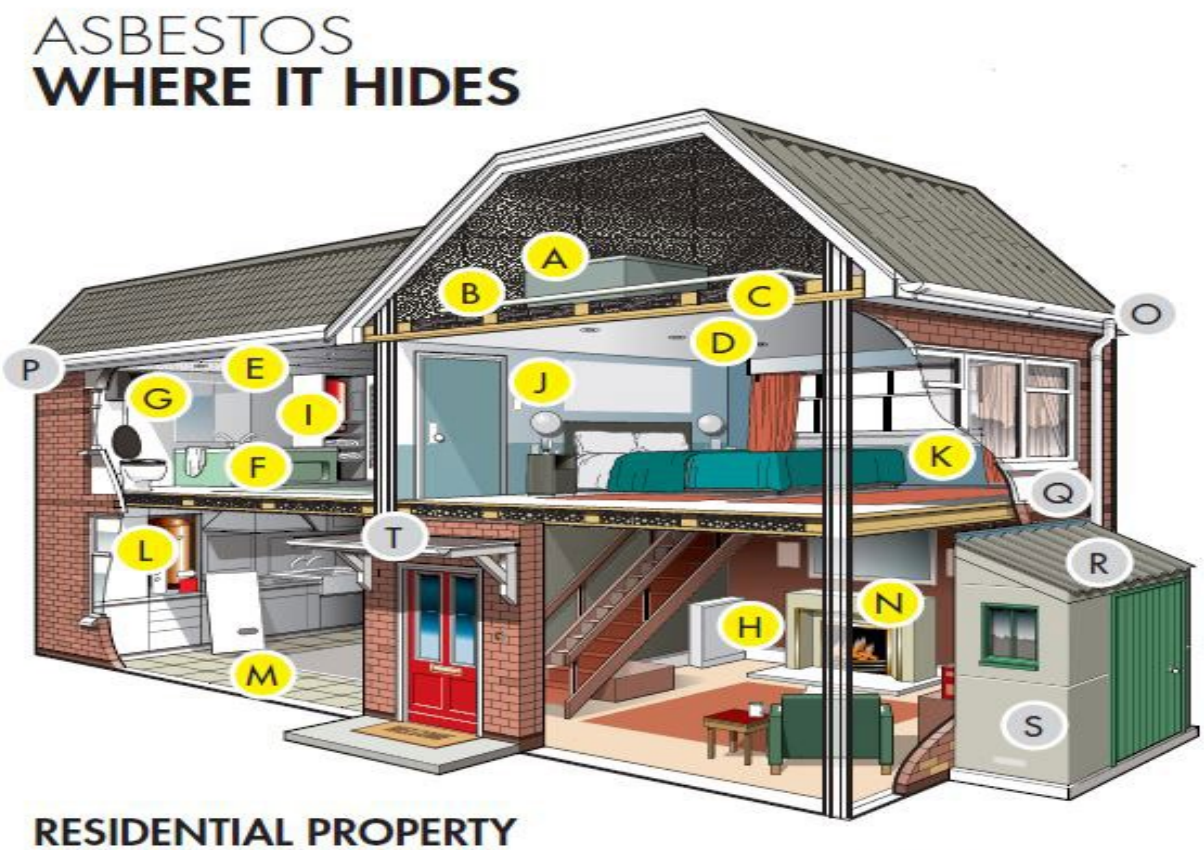
Information on Asbestos Containing Materials (ACMs)

This safety information sheet has been produced to provide general information surrounding asbestos. If you have any questions regarding asbestos that are not answered by this leaflet, please contact Jigsaw

What is asbestos?

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral and has been widely used in this country as a building material in 1950s through to the mid 1980s. It was also used in household products such as oven gloves and ironing boards.

Could there be asbestos in my home?



RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

Inside

- A Asbestos cement water tank
- B Pipe lagging
- C Loose fill insulation
- D Textured decorative coating e.g. Artex
- E AIB ceiling tiles
- F AIB bath panel
- G Toilet seat and cistern
- H AIB behind fuse box
- I AIB airing cupboard and/or sprayed insulation coating on boiler and hot water tank
- J AIB partition wall
- K AIB interior window panel
- L AIB around boiler, storage heaters and warm air heating systems
- M Vinyl floor tiles
- N AIB behind fire

Outside

- O Asbestos cement gutters and downpipes
- P Soffits – AIB or asbestos cement
- Q AIB exterior window panel
- R Asbestos cement roof
- S Asbestos cement panels
- T Roofing felt

AIB = Asbestos insulating board

As long as asbestos is in good condition and is not disturbed or damaged, there is no risk. Some forms of asbestos can become dangerous if disturbed or damaged as fibres can be released into the air and inhaled.

How would I recognise asbestos in my home?

It is difficult to, tell, especially to the untrained eye whether something contains asbestos just by looking at it as modern asbestos free materials often look similar - remember it is usually older products that contain asbestos. This can only be confirmed by analysing a sample of the material in a laboratory. Our surveyors have been trained to identify materials that may contain asbestos and on inspection will decide if further action is needed.

What should I do if I think there may be asbestos in my home?

- Don't panic! If you think you have asbestos in your home - it's usually only a problem if disturbed.
- Don't drill, saw or disturb materials that may contain asbestos.
- Never attempt to remove asbestos lagging, spray coatings or insulation board yourself. These materials can only be safely removed by a licensed contractor.
- Asbestos materials that are slightly damaged can sometimes be repaired by sealing or enclosing.
- Sometimes it may be necessary to take a sample, for example to identify the type of asbestos. This should only be carried out by a suitably trained person to sample or do a survey of the premises

Remember asbestos materials in your home that cannot readily be damaged are usually best left where they are as removal can lead to higher levels of fibres in the air for some time.

Do contact Jigsaw for advice if you think you've got a problem with asbestos in your home.