

# Disposal of Asbestos-Impacted Soil



## General Requirement for Asbestos

Because of the hazards associated with asbestos, a number of regulatory authorities impose conditions on its handling. These authorities include local Councils, the NSW EPA and SafeWork NSW. Those authorities should be consulted prior to working with asbestos.

Additional information can be found on [City of Newcastle's website](#) (or via the regulator's website).

## Summerhill Waste Management Centre

The Summerhill Waste Management Centre is licensed by the NSW EPA to accept wastes classified as General Solid Waste (putrescible or non-putrescible) or Asbestos Wastes as defined by the [NSW EPA \(2014\) Waste Classification Guidelines - Part 1: Classifying Waste](#).

Asbestos Wastes are defined by those guidelines as '*any waste that contains asbestos*'.

Where soil has become impacted by asbestos – eg the demolition of a building has resulted in broken asbestos sheets being mixed with soil – specific requirements are attached to the disposal of those asbestos-impacted soils at Summerhill.

## Background

As with other asbestos wastes, significant health and safety risks are associated with exposure to asbestos fibres potentially contained within the soil matrix. Thus, safe work methods are required to control those risks during disposal.

## Procedures for Disposal of Asbestos at Summerhill

- Asbestos contaminated soil must be booked-in by contacting the Summerhill office on 4985 6600 before 3.30pm on the last weekday prior to the delivery date. Booking details will include the type of asbestos waste, number and size of loads, source of the waste, contact details for the transporter and delivery date.

Please note: Operational constraints limit the total amount of asbestos that can be received on a given day, and some asbestos loads must be assessed by Summerhill staff prior to unloading. Hence, Centre management cannot guarantee that loads will be accepted on the desired day.

- Asbestos impacted soil must be delivered to Summerhill between 7.30am and 12 midday on the day they are booked.
- Asbestos impacted soil will not be received on weekends, public holidays or after 12 midday on weekdays.
- Prior to granting a Disposal Approval for any asbestos impacted soil, Council will require copies of a report by a Competent Person, as per NSW Code of Practice (2011), classifying the asbestos as bonded or friable. Should the asbestos be classified as friable copies of the following documentation will also be required prior to disposal approval:
  - A 'Class A Licence' for the person / company undertaking the removal and,
  - The licensee's safe work method statements, which must address disposal as well as the removal of the asbestos-impacted soil.
  - The current application / permit issued by SafeWork NSW to remove the asbestos-impacted soil.
- No asbestos contaminated soil will be accepted at Summerhill unless a Disposal Approval has been granted.

- If rain falls during the day or night leading up to the delivery date, customers should contact the Summerhill office prior to delivering their load to ensure that site conditions are suitable for asbestos loads. Wet weather may make it unsafe for vehicles to cross the landfill.
- Asbestos waste loads will be directed to a designated area of the landfill's active tipping face. Vehicles delivering asbestos wastes should therefore be capable of safely traversing the landfill area.

With respect to disposal methodologies, it is worth noting that previous successful disposal campaigns have relied on pre-wetting of the soil, and then encapsulation in heavy duty plastic sheeting for transport and disposal. This methodology is consistent with requirements of the 2011 Code.

Effective disposal at the landfill has been demonstrated using removable bins in lieu of tip trucks. This method allows bins to be placed on the ground and the encapsulated waste to be tipped directly on the ground without rupture. The use of tip trucks significantly reduces the effectiveness of encapsulation, as the encapsulation ruptures and the waste is often exposed as a result of falling from the tip tray to the ground.

Should waste-generators wish to use an alternative method to that described above, they will be required to demonstrate its effectiveness prior to a disposal approval being granted.

Please note that required documents should be provided at least 10 working days prior to the intended disposal date. Special Waste pre-booking and disposal time limit requirements will also apply (refer to Asbestos Disposal and Special Waste Fact Sheets).

## **Disposal Fees**

Please refer to [City of Newcastle's website](#) for current disposal charges.

Where asbestos wastes are mixed with other wastes, the entire load will be charged at the rate for asbestos.

Where asbestos wastes are unloaded in a manner that does not comply with requirements, this can lead to additional handling of the wastes by Summerhill staff to ensure the risks are managed properly.

Additional charges may be levied to recoup the costs of that additional handling. Those charges may include costs to excavate and import additional soil to cover the asbestos, provision of water tanker etc.

(Note that the Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 1996 makes it an offence to not comply with special requirements relating to asbestos waste as specified by the Regulation. Such an offence is liable to incur an infringement notice issued by authorised City of Newcastle or EPA officers).