

Summerhill Waste Management Centre

Waste Description

Asbestos Wastes are any wastes containing asbestos. (Asbestos is defined by the NSW EPA's *Waste Classification Guidelines*). Asbestos wastes can be further classified into two groups:

1. **Friable Asbestos** is any material that contains asbestos and is in the form of a powder or can be crumbled, pulverized or reduced to powder by hand pressure when dry. Sprayed limpet, millboard, pipe and boiler lagging are examples of friable asbestos.
2. **Bonded Asbestos** Bonded asbestos material is any material that contains asbestos in a bonded matrix. eg. asbestos cement sheet ('fibro'), bituminous floor tiles/roof sheeting.

Health Hazards

Asbestos dust contains tiny, almost indestructible fibres that can cause damage when they are inhaled into the lungs. The most dangerous fibres are the smallest ones which may be invisible to the naked eye, but which penetrate the lungs most deeply.

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](#).

NSW EPA WASTE TRACKING

PLEASE NOTE: The requirements below are specific to the receipt of asbestos wastes at Summerhill.

In addition to those requirements, the NSW EPA has introduced requirements to track certain wastes, including asbestos. Details can be found at <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/wasteregulation/transport-asbestos-tyres.htm>

ALL ASBESTOS LOADS in excess of 100kg and/or 10m² (whichever is less) must be registered with the NSW EPA.

Please register your loads via: <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/wasteregulation/wastelocate-asbestos.htm>

Asbestos wastes received at Summerhill can be tracked via scanning QR2id Plates at the weighbridge with your smart phone

Requirements for Disposal

NSW legislation (POEO (Waste) Regulation) requires that the waste hauler inform the landfill operator that the waste contains asbestos and sets out how the waste should be covered.

This Regulation also requires that asbestos waste in any form be unloaded '*in such a manner as to prevent the generation of dust or the stirring up of dust*'.

The following procedure for the disposal of asbestos wastes at Summerhill is aimed at ensuring operations at the Centre comply with the requirements of this Regulation as well as those of other relevant legislation including the Workplace Health and Safety Act and Regulation.

Procedures for Disposal of Asbestos at Summerhill

- Asbestos wastes 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 wastes must be delivered to Summerhill between 7.30am and 12 midday on the day they are booked.

Asbestos wastes will not be received on weekends, public holidays or after 12 midday on weekdays.

- 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.
- Friable Asbestos waste must be presented in two sealed, heavy duty bags made from low density polyethylene (LDPE) at least 0.2mm thick. Each bag will have maximum dimensions less than or equal to 1.2 m in height and 0.9 m in width and a maximum weight of 25 kg. Each bag must be marked 'CAUTION ASBESTOS' in letters of not less than 40 mm in height. These sealed bags must be placed on the ground in a manner which prevents their rupture.
- Bonded Asbestos waste must be presented for disposal and unloaded in a manner which avoids the creation of dust. Stabilised asbestos wastes can be presented as per the method for friable asbestos above. Where the friable asbestos method is not used, the following procedure will be acceptable:
 - ✓ Thoroughly wet each individual sheet of asbestos waste at their source.
 - ✓ Double wrap bundles of wetted sheets in heavy duty builder's-type plastic and seal individual bundles with heavy duty tape, such as duct tape. (The size of these bundles should be suited to the method of unloading - eg small enough to hand unload from a trailer).
 - ✓ Present loads for inspection by landfill operational staff as directed by the weighbridge operator.
 - ✓ Unload sealed bundles at the area identified by landfill staff in a manner which prevents the rupture of bundles. **Note that it is the responsibility of transporters to deposit waste on the ground at the correct location and with bundles intact.**
 - ✗ The practice of 'running out' loads deposited by tip trucks will not be permitted. Loads must be tipped in a compact pile at the identified location to allow the wastes to be covered by operators without the need to first 'push-up' the asbestos waste.
 - ✗ If asbestos is placed in a truck, bin or similar that has been lined with plastic and then wrapped as a single bundle, the vehicle will not be permitted to unload. Experience has shown that these loads will rupture during unloading.

Non-Compliance with Required Procedures for Disposal

The potential health impacts associated with asbestos exposure and the clear legislative constraints for landfill operators mean that Centre management will not tolerate non-compliance with the above procedures for disposal of asbestos wastes.

Inappropriate Packaging of Waste

In the event that waste is deemed unable to be unloaded without rupturing following inspection by landfill operational staff, a supervisor will inspect the load. Should the supervisor also determine that the load cannot be unloaded in accordance with requirements, permission will not be granted to dispose of the material and the driver will be directed to leave the site.

Failure to Unload as per Requirements

Where loads are packaged as required but the method of unloading results in bundles rupturing, details of the vehicle and load will be recorded by the Centre and the customer reminded of the Centre's requirements. Should a second load be ruptured when unloading then no further asbestos loads will be accepted from that vehicle until it can be demonstrated that an alternative unloading method will be employed.

Charges

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).