



05 September, 2024

Re: Removing Asbestos in Soil – Guidelines

Source: Health and Safety at Work (Asbestos) Regulations 2016

In New Zealand, background air monitoring is generally required when removing asbestos from soil. The New Zealand WorkSafe guidelines and regulations under the Health and Safety at Work (Asbestos) Regulations 2016 stipulate that appropriate measures must be taken to manage the risk of asbestos exposure.

When removing asbestos-contaminated soil, it is important to:

1. **Conduct Background Monitoring:** Before starting the removal process, background air monitoring helps establish the level of asbestos fibres present in the air before any disturbance. This helps in assessing the effectiveness of control measures during the removal process.
2. **Implement Control Measures:** Ensure that all necessary control measures are in place to prevent the release of asbestos fibres into the air. This includes using appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), implementing dust suppression techniques, and employing effective containment strategies.
3. **Monitor During and After Removal:** Continuous or periodic air monitoring during and after the removal work is crucial to ensure that asbestos fibres are not released into the environment and that any potential exposure is minimized.
4. **Compliance with Regulations:** Ensure compliance with the WorkSafe New Zealand guidelines and other relevant regulations. This may include consulting with a licensed asbestos removalist and following their procedures.

By adhering to these guidelines, you can help ensure that the asbestos removal process is conducted safely and in accordance with New Zealand's health and safety regulations.