



# Asbestos at Pickles Auction House

## Fyshwick ACT - FAQs

### **When was there a risk of asbestos at Pickles?**

Building works at Pickles Auction House undertaken in the period 5-9 October 2009 (inclusive) resulted in the release of asbestos into the air. If you visited Pickles during this period, you may have been exposed to asbestos.

### **What is the risk of getting sick from being exposed to asbestos?**

Given the relatively short duration of your possible exposure to loose asbestos fibres at Pickles, the probability of your contracting an asbestos-related disease is low. An isolated exposure to asbestos fibres of short duration is unlikely to result in the development of an asbestos-related disease.

### **What should I do if I think I have been exposed to the asbestos?**

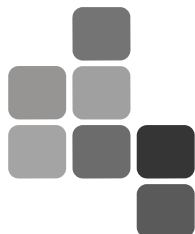
If you have any health concerns, please seek medical advice from your General Practitioner. Alternatively, anyone with concerns may contact the Asbestos Health Information line, telephone 02 6205 4411.

### **What is the ACT Government doing about the asbestos at Pickles?**

The Pickles site has been closed and will remain the subject of a prohibition notice while clean-up activity is underway and until such time as it is safe to reopen.

Inspectors are continuing to monitor the clean-up operation and are working closely with Pickles management and an independent accredited asbestos contractor to ensure that the regulations regarding asbestos removal are strictly adhered to.

The ACT Government has formed a multi-agency taskforce to deal with the clean-up and investigation of the incident, the prosecution of any person or company found to have breached any laws, and to provide information and support to employees, customers and members of the public concerned about exposure to asbestos.



### **When will Pickles reopen?**

The Pickles Auction House has relocated to an alternate temporary location. No vehicles being offered for sale at the temporary location were exposed to asbestos.

### **Have any cars that might have been contaminated been allowed to leave the site?**

In consultation with the environmental hygienist, some vehicles not affected by the asbestos have been approved for release. All suspect vehicles have been retained within the site.

### **Is there any risk that surrounding areas near Pickles may have been contaminated?**

Further investigations are taking place and samples are being taken from surrounding areas. Further information will be available following these investigations.

Investigations are also taking place regarding the removal of waste material from the site in the period before the site was shutdown.

### **Do I need to see a lawyer/ where can I get legal advice?**

The Government's concern and interest at this time is to ensure that the site is safe and the public health protected by the removal and remediation of any risk arising from the works undertaken.

There may be legal implications for Pickles and the contractors it engaged to undertake the works in question. Questions of legal liability are for future consideration and those concerned with such matters are advised to seek their own legal advice.

### **What is being done to prevent this situation happening again?**

Asbestos is classified as a hazardous material so there are strict guidelines about how it should be packaged, transported and where it can be disposed.

Information about disposal of asbestos material and the ACT laws that manage and regulate asbestos can be found at [www.asbestos.act.gov.au](http://www.asbestos.act.gov.au)

Anyone with concerns about the management of a site where they believe asbestos may be present is encouraged to contact the Office of Regulatory Services on 02 62050200