

Latrobe Valley Asbestos Survey #3

• Hard copy •

You may also complete this online at:

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/latrobe-valley-asbestos-survey>

1 – 30 September 2021

Hello and thank you for agreeing to do this survey.

We appreciate your time and value your answers.

The information you provide will help the Latrobe Valley Asbestos Taskforce better understand the issues and concerns surrounding asbestos in our community, so that programs can be developed to ensure the safety and wellbeing of everyone in the Latrobe Valley.

This consultation is being conducted on the Engage Victoria site at <https://engage.vic.gov.au/latrobe-valley-asbestos-survey> and hard copies of the survey are being provided upon request to people who are unable to access the online version.

If you need help to complete this survey, please contact the Taskforce secretariat at the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning on (03) 5172 2111.

Completed surveys should be sent to:

LVAT Survey responses
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
71 Hotham Street
Traralgon VIC 3844

For further information about the Latrobe Valley Asbestos Taskforce, please call (03) 5172 2111 or visit: www.asbestostaskforce.net

– SURVEY BEGINS –

PLEASE CIRCLE YOUR ANSWERS

ASBESTOS AWARENESS

- 1) When was the last time you saw or heard anything about the dangers of asbestos exposure?**
- In the past 12 months
 - In the past 24 months
 - More than 2 years ago
 - Can't recall
 - I have never heard anything about the dangers of asbestos exposure
- 2) How informed do you feel about asbestos and its related dangers?**
- Not informed at all
 - Somewhat informed
 - Informed
 - Well informed
 - Don't know / unsure
- 3) How important is it for you to know about asbestos and its related dangers?**
- Not important at all
 - Somewhat important
 - Important
 - Very important
 - Don't know / unsure
- 4) How would you rate your own knowledge of the dangers associated with exposure to asbestos?**
- No knowledge at all
 - Some knowledge
 - Good knowledge
 - Very good knowledge
 - Don't know / unsure
- 5) How would you rate your own knowledge regarding where to safely and legally dispose of asbestos once it's removed?**
- No knowledge at all
 - Some knowledge
 - Good knowledge
 - Very good knowledge
 - Don't know / unsure
- 6) How confident are you in your own ability to identify materials that may contain asbestos?**
- Not at all confident
 - Somewhat confident
 - Confident
 - Very confident
 - Don't know / unsure
- 7) How confident are you in your own ability to identify situations where you or others may be at risk of exposure to asbestos?**
- Not at all confident
 - Somewhat confident
 - Confident

- Very confident
- Don't know / unsure

8) Have you had any formal training in relation to:

1) Asbestos and how it needs to be managed in any building renovation or demolition work?

Yes No Don't know / unsure

2) How asbestos waste must be packaged (double-wrapped, sealed etc) for safe disposal?

Yes No Don't know / unsure

3) Where to safely and legally dispose of asbestos waste

Yes No Don't know / unsure

9) If you answered Yes to the question above, who delivered this training?

- My own company
- Through a peak body in my industry
- Through an external training organisation
- Other, please specify: _____
- Don't know / unsure

10) Please include your level of agreement with the following statements by placing a tick in the box:

a. Asbestos only poses a danger if disturbed (e.g. as part of a building demolition activity)

Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree

b. I would pay for specialist advice if I was unsure something contained asbestos

Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree

c. Asbestos is not a major concern for me

Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree

d. Even a small exposure to asbestos can be very dangerous

Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree

e. Asbestos is very common in Australian buildings

Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree

f. Anyone doing renovations needs to be very mindful of asbestos

Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree

g. I know how to go about disposing of any asbestos that was found on my property during a renovation

Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree

h. More needs to be done to ensure that asbestos it is disposed of safely to protect public health and the environment.

Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree

YOUR HOME

11) **Imagine you need to renovate the bathroom or kitchen in your own home. Which of the following best describes how you would approach this?**

- I would do as much of the work involved as possible – even if I had to learn new skills or processes along the way
- I would do at least some of the work, but use paid professionals for parts of the job where specialist knowledge or skills are required
- I would get paid professionals to undertake the whole job on my behalf

12) **Which of the following best describes you?**

- I am a do-it-yourself (DIY) home renovation enthusiast
- I am handy enough to do some home renovation work myself, but it's not a passion of mine
- I don't like DIY home renovation projects at all

13) **In terms of any home renovation / DIY work you have undertaken, roughly how old are the properties you have worked on?** You may select more than one answer.

- Brand new / off the plan
- 1 – 20 years old (built after 2000)
- 20 – 30 years old (built after 1990)
- 30 + years old (built before 1990)
- Don't know / unsure
- I have not done any home renovation work

INFORMATION SOURCES

14) **If you wanted information on asbestos and its related dangers, where would you go for this?**

- Google search
- Government website, please specify: _____
- Local council
- Builder / building inspector
- Asbestos specialist / removal company
- Other, please specify: _____

15) If you wanted information on how and where to dispose of asbestos, where would you go for this / who would you ask?

- Google search
- Government website, please specify: _____
- Local council
- Builder / building inspector
- Asbestos specialist / removal company
- Other, please specify: _____

16) Have you heard of the Latrobe Valley Asbestos Taskforce?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know / unsure

ASBESTOS IN THE LATROBE VALLEY

17) What concerns you the most about asbestos in the Latrobe Valley? You may select more than one answer.

- Illegal dumping of asbestos
- Asbestos in power stations
- Storage of asbestos waste
- Health effects of asbestos exposure
- Home renovators not using licensed asbestos removalists
- Not enough people are aware of the dangers of asbestos exposure
- Nowhere to easily dispose of asbestos waste once it's removed
- I am not concerned

18) As far as you know, to what extent is the illegal dumping of asbestos waste a common issue

a. in your local area?

- It's not an issue
- A minor issue
- A moderate issue
- A major issue
- Don't know / unsure

b. in Victoria?

- It's not an issue
- A minor issue
- A moderate issue
- A major issue
- Don't know / unsure

19) Have you known someone from the Latrobe Valley who has died or whose health has been affected as a result of asbestos exposure? (optional)

- Yes
- No
- Don't know / unsure
- Other or prefer not to say

DEMOGRAPHICS

20) Your age

- Under 18
- 18 – 19
- 20 – 24
- 25 – 29
- 30 – 34
- 35 – 39
- 40 – 44
- 45 – 49
- 50 – 54
- 55 – 59
- 60 – 64
- Over 65
- Prefer not to say

21) Your gender

- Male
- Female
- Prefer not to say
- Self described

22) Do you live in or have you ever lived in the Latrobe Valley?

- Yes
- No

23) Do you work in or have you ever worked in the Latrobe Valley?

- Yes
- No

24) What is your main source of income?

- Agriculture, horticulture, dairy
- Apiary
- Building, electrical, mechanical and other trades
- Education
- Energy
- Government agency (employee)
- Government support payments (e.g. Newstart or Disability Support Pension)
- Healthcare
- Non-government organisation
- Private business (other)
- Real Estate (agent)
- Retired
- Timber industry
- Tourism
- Not employed (not receiving payments)
- Other or prefer not to say

25) Are you an apprentice in the Latrobe Valley?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

26) If you answered Yes to the above, in which field do you work? (please specify)

27) How did you find out about this survey?

- Social media, please specify: _____
- Regional media – newspaper or radio story
- Advertisement
- Flyer
- Government agency website (e.g. WorkSafe, EPA)
- Word of mouth
- Email
- Other, please specify: _____

OTHER

28) Is there anything else you would like to say about asbestos?

Thank you for completing this section of the survey.

If you are a home renovator or have undertaken home renovations in the past, your help in completing the next section would be highly appreciated and of enormous value.

SECTION 2 FOR DIY HOME RENOVATORS ONLY

1) Over the past 3 years, have you ever undertaken any of the following to a residence built or renovated between 1940 and 1990:

a. Undertaken renovation work that involved knocking down either internal or external walls?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know / unsure

b. A bathroom renovation, including the removal of existing fittings, fixtures, wall tiles/splashbacks and / or flooring?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know / unsure

c. A kitchen renovation, including the removal of existing fittings, fixtures, wall tiles / splashbacks and/or flooring?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know / unsure

d. Demolition of any external buildings (e.g. outhouses, sheds, fencing or other buildings)?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know / unsure

2) If you answered Yes to any of the above, which of the following best describes how the work was undertaken?

- I did all of the work myself / had family friends help but with no use of professional tradespeople
- I did some of the work myself / had family friends help and used tradespeople or building professionals for the remainder of the work
- Tradespeople or building professionals did all of the work on my behalf
- Other, please specify: _____

3) Prior to undertaking any of the work, was any assessment of the planned work undertaken to determine the risk of exposure to asbestos?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know / unsure

4) If the planned work was assessed, who undertook that assessment?

- I did this myself
- The tradesperson / builder / contractor did this on my behalf
- I contacted an asbestos professional to do this (e.g. a licensed removalist or an occupational hygienist)
- Don't know / unsure
- Not applicable
- Other, please specify: _____

5) Did asbestos need to be removed as part of the renovation/construction or demolition process?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know / unsure

If you answered yes to question 5 above, please answer questions 6 and 7 below, else go straight to question 8.

6) Which of the following best describes how the asbestos was removed and disposed of?

- I did this myself
- The tradesperson / builder / contractor did this on my behalf
- A licensed asbestos removalist was hired to do this
- Other, please specify: _____
- Don't know / unsure
- Not applicable as asbestos did not need to be removed

7) If you removed and disposed of the asbestos yourself, what was the main reason for doing this?

- To save money
- Asbestos is not that dangerous
- I felt I had the skills or knowledge to do this properly
- I couldn't access a licensed asbestos removalist in my area
- Other, please specify: _____
- Don't know / unsure

8) After the asbestos was removed, how was it disposed of?

- Left on the property
- Put in the kerbside collection bin
- Put in a 'standard' skip bin
- Put in a 'asbestos' skip bin
- Put out for council pick-up
- Taken to a tip/landfill site
- Left in bushland or by a roadside
- Other (specify)
- Don't know

9) Was the asbestos waste packaged (double wrapped, sealed etc) before it was disposed of?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know / unsure

10) Which of the following best describes you?

- I have undertaken formal training in the safe removal and disposal of asbestos
- I accessed information on safe asbestos removal prior to removing and disposing of the asbestos
- I used my own common sense / judgement about how to remove and dispose of the asbestos
- Other, please specify: _____

11) Over the next 12 months, are you likely to undertake any of the following to a residence built or renovated between 1940 and 1990?

- a. Renovation work that involves knocking down either internal or external walls?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Don't know / unsure

- b. A bathroom renovation, including the removal of existing fittings, fixtures, wall tiles/splashbacks and / or flooring?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Don't know / unsure

- c. A kitchen renovation, including the removal of existing fittings, fixtures, wall tiles / splashbacks and / or flooring?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Don't know / unsure

- d. Demolition of any external buildings (e.g. outhouses, sheds, fencing or other buildings)?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Don't know / unsure

12) Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements:

a. I know what to do if asbestos is identified on a building, renovation or demolition site

Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree

b. Asbestos removal must be undertaken by licensed specialists in this field

Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree

c. I know how to protect myself from exposure to asbestos

Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree

d. I take asbestos and its dangers very seriously

Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree

e. When preparing for any renovation project, asbestos is a key consideration

Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree

f. I have enough information about asbestos to make informed decisions when doing any renovation work

Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree

g. I have sufficient knowledge about how to identify and manage asbestos on the job site

Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree

h. I am concerned about potentially being exposed to asbestos

Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree

13) Overall, which of these, if any, do you see as challenges householders face in disposing of asbestos waste (Tick all that apply)

- Difficulty knowing if asbestos is present
- Not having a disposal facility close by that accepts asbestos waste
- The cost of asbestos waste disposal
- Finding a licensed asbestos removalist
- Having to package asbestos for disposal (double wrapping, sealing etc)
- Finding the correct information on how to package and legally dispose of asbestos
- Other (Please specify)

OTHER

Is there anything else you would like to add?

-- END OF SURVEY --

Thank you very much for completing the survey.

For information about all things asbestos, please visit: www.asbestos.vic.gov.au

Privacy Collection Notice

The Victorian Government is committed to protecting personal information provided by you in accordance with the principles of the Victorian privacy laws.

Purpose

This Privacy Collection Statement relates to all submissions collected in relation to the Latrobe Valley Asbestos Benchmark Survey being conducted in Victoria. The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) provides secretariat services to the Latrobe Valley Asbestos Taskforce, the members of which comprise DELWP, Environment Protection Authority, WorkSafe Victoria, Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, Sustainability Victoria, Latrobe Health Assembly, Latrobe Valley Authority, Resource Recovery Gippsland, Latrobe City Council, Wellington Shire Council, Baw Baw Shire Council, Asbestos Council/Gippsland Asbestos Related Disease Support Group (GARDS), Australian Manufacturing Workers Union, Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union, Electrical Trades Union, Australian Workers Union, Australian Services Union.

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) is providing administrative services to the consultation and submissions will be managed in accordance with the Department's Information Privacy Policy. The Department's Information Privacy Policy can be viewed at <https://www.delwp.vic.gov.au/privacy>

Use of your submission

The information you provide will be made available to the Latrobe Valley Asbestos Taskforce.

If you freely and voluntarily provide any sensitive information under the Act in your submission DELWP will consider that provision to be consent to collect the information and will then protect it under the Information Privacy Principles in the Act. Sensitive information is information relating to racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, membership of a political association or trade association/union, religious or philosophical beliefs or affiliations, sexual preference or criminal record.

You have the right to access and correct your personal information about you that is held by DELWP. Requests for access should be sent to the Manager Privacy, P.O. Box 500 East Melbourne 3002.