



Kia ora, Happy New Year & Welcome to 2026!

We hope everyone had a great break and has returned refreshed and ready to get 2026 started on a positive note. To that end, over the next six weeks, Contaminated Site Solutions will be sharing a series of short newsletters designed specifically for schools and education centres across Tamaki Makaurau.

Each week will focus on a different potential hazard that can arise in school environments, what practical steps your school can take to reduce risk or prepare, and where support may be available if it's ever needed.

Remembering the asbestos scare we had in November & December, we've decided to begin the series with a look at dealing with the presence of asbestos in our schools.

Week 1 – Asbestos

If any section of your facility was built before 2000 there is a chance your staff & students are working & playing in proximity to a hazardous material. Fortunately, that doesn't mean you need to panic or take any immediate action. If your site is pre-2000, you will already have an Asbestos Management Plan (AMP), and this will identify your affected area/s.

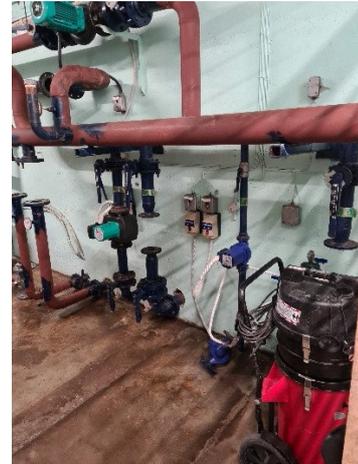
Asbestos containing materials (ACM's) don't become an immediate danger until damaged or broken, when this happens, they release microscopic, carcinogenic fibres into the air.

Damage can occur any number of ways, from sanding during renovations, harsh scrubbing, flood, fire or weather damage to accidental breakage during play. Whatever the cause, the outcome is the same, you need to act quickly!



- The first thing to do is to close off access to the area. If inside, close windows & doors and shut off any vents. If outside, cordon off the area with cones and tape.(you may mist lightly with water to stop the spread of dust but DO NOT saturate the area).
- Alert staff and anyone likely to be in proximity to the hazard and ensure everyone is kept away from the area. If possible, add signage to reinforce this message.

- Contact a WorkSafe licensed assessor. They will perform testing to confirm the presence of ACM's and inform you of the course of action that needs to be taken.[WorkSafe Asbestos Assessor Public Register](#)
- When testing indicates ACM's are present and a site decontamination is required, contact a WorkSafe licensed removal specialist. Once they have decontaminated the site your assessor will retest and clear the site.[WorkSafe Asbestos Removalist Public Register](#)



It is recommended you familiarise yourself with your AMP and conduct regular checks of the areas affected by ACM's as outlined therein to check for damage or deterioration. Ensure all staff know how to respond if a hazard arises and keep important information and contacts in an accessible area.

We hope you find this newsletter informative and helpful; it is the goal of CSS to support our schools and their communities in better understanding common risks and to plan ahead with confidence. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to CSS on [09 828 1731](tel:098281731) and one of our team will be happy to assist you today.

Next Week... Mould – when it's a hazard, prevention & remediation.

Protect your property. Protect your people. Stay compliant with CSS.

 **CSS Emergency Response: 09 828 1731**

 **Learn More:** <https://cssnz.co.nz/health-safety-excellence/>

Stay Safe,
The CSS Team



website: www.cssnz.co.nz
email: support@cssnz.co.nz
phone: 09 828 1731