

Managing hazardous materials – information for external hirers

The ACT Education Directorate has a comprehensive approach to managing hazardous materials to ensure that all public school buildings are safe and comfortable for our school communities and those who hire our facilities.

Most ACT public schools were built at a time when asbestos and lead paint were widely used in the building industry. As [a published list of schools shows](#), 76 of our 89 schools have lead paint and/or asbestos. Nearly all asbestos in ACT public schools is non-friable, also known as bonded asbestos eg fibro sheets.

Why are schools safe to hire?

We know where hazardous materials exist, or are likely to exist, we monitor the locations regularly and we have a management strategy in place to keep our community safe. Detailed reports are kept at the front office in a Hazardous Materials Register which you are welcome to view.

The Directorate has established a Hazardous Materials Taskforce to lead the management of these materials. The Taskforce is advised by an Expert Panel which includes leading academics and representatives from WorkSafe ACT and the ACT Health Directorate.

The ACT Government has committed \$15 million to remove hazardous materials from public schools during the next four years. This is in addition to ongoing repairs and maintenance work which also provides an opportunity to address lead paint and asbestos.

Where do I learn more?

For information about hazardous materials in our school, drop by the front office to speak with our staff.

To learn more about how hazardous materials are safely managed in our public schools, visit the [Education Directorate's website](#). It has a fact sheet about lead paint and details about the Directorate's commitment and approach to managing hazardous materials.

ACT Health has also published [a fact sheet about lead exposure and your health](#).