

Risks associated with decorating asbestos containing material:

Asbestos fibre hazard

The release of asbestos fibres can pose a health risk to staff, students and visitors particularly if they are in close proximity when an asbestos disturbance occurs.

Installing decorations that penetrate, puncture or damage asbestos containing material (ACM) is prohibited under the Department's [Asbestos Management Procedure](#) as these types of installations may cause a disturbance of asbestos fibres.

Who has responsibility for managing the risks?

There is a joint responsibility for managing risk and preventing the alteration or penetration of identified ACM:

- The Department is responsible for maintaining a safe and healthy work environment.
- The OIC and their delegates are responsible for identifying, assessing, and controlling hazards in consultation with the facility's employees and health and safety representatives.
- Employees must exercise reasonable care for their own and others' health and safety.

What are facilities to do?

To ensure the safety of students, staff and visitors it is advisable to:

- Review the asbestos register to identify ACM before applying any nails, screws, hooks or other penetrative equipment to walls and ceilings.
- If a surface is identified as 'Assumed' or 'Confirmed' ACM, use non-damaging, temporary adhesives to attach decorations (e.g. Blu-Tac).
- Use the asbestos register to check if any existing decorations have disturbed in-situ ACM.
- Respond to asbestos disturbances in accordance with the [Asbestos Incident Management Procedure](#) and;

STOP, RESTRICT and REPORT.

Further Information

If you have any questions, please contact Infrastructure.Safety@qed.qld.gov.au for advice.

