

DAMAGE:

THE POOR CONDITION OF ASBESTOS IN OUR SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS & HOUSES

An analysis of 3 million asbestos samples
from Alpha Tracker®

Report Update November 2024

alpha tracker



“We have reviewed the latest data from asbestos software Alpha Tracker® to update our “Damage” report from May 2023.

We looked at the state of asbestos in UK schools and hospitals, in particular asbestos materials showing signs of damage. Damaged asbestos is more likely to release fibres into the air, potentially causing fatal diseases such as mesothelioma, decades after the first exposure.

Overall, the situation is just as bad as it was in 2023. In hospitals, half of the asbestos samples reinspected in the last two years still show signs of damage. In our schools, almost all of the asbestos re-checked by specialists shows sign of deterioration. This simply is not good enough and reflects the appalling state of the UK public infrastructure

There are signs of improvement, though. Some of the most dangerous asbestos materials have been removed since the original surveys were undertaken, showing that some sensible prioritisation is happening.

We have a new government in the UK with new priorities and a different approach to public health. We’ll be sharing these results with MPs to encourage them to take asbestos-related disease seriously. We have lost more people to asbestos-related disease in 2024 than in any previous year – and this simply cannot be allowed to continue.”



Robin Bennett

Director, Start Software

November 2024





"Children are
especially
vulnerable
to the effects
of breathing
asbestos fibres"



"If asbestos is
damaged, it is
more likely to
release fibres
into the air"

Schools

1 in 5 asbestos samples were in very poor condition.

1 in 4 buildings surveyed had damage asbestos within them.

86% of asbestos materials reinspected still showed signs of damage.

75% of the badly damaged asbestos items re-checked during the last 18 months had been repaired or removed.

Hospitals

In recent surveys, **1 in 3** asbestos samples were in very poor condition.

Half of asbestos materials reinspected still showed signs of damage.

Half of the badly damaged asbestos items re-checked during the last 18 months had been repaired or removed.

Schools & Hospitals

In recent surveys, **3 in 4** asbestos samples showed signs of damage.

"This survey highlights the challenges of managing asbestos in aging public buildings and the urgent need for the government to act on the 2022 DWP Inquiry recommendations."

Andrew Paten
UKNAR



"Reinspections alone don't eliminate the risk of asbestos exposure. Raising awareness and understanding is crucial for effective asbestos risk management."

Colette Willoughby
NORAC Chairperson



For further information contact: **Robin Bennett at Start Software**
e-Innovation Centre, Telford TF2 9FT
0333 301 1010 robin.bennett@start-software.com
www.start-software.com

