

# Asbestos in Equipment

High-Temperature Furnaces, Drying Ovens, Autoclaves, Plant Tables,  
Wire Gauze etc.

**Asbestos was very widely used in appliances and equipment for its properties (e. g. thermal insulation and resistance to fire), until 1990, for example, in drying cabinets and heating ovens. If an appliance contains asbestos, it must be disposed of.**

Check your work equipment that was purchased before 1990 to see if it may contain asbestos-containing parts. The examples in the photos should help you make an initial assessment. If you find suspicious parts or are not sure, please proceed as follows:

- 1) Stop using potentially asbestos-containing equipment; and
- 2) report these devices by email to [sgu-gebaeudeschadstoffe@ethz.ch](mailto:sgu-gebaeudeschadstoffe@ethz.ch).
- 3) If necessary, we will come on site and have a material analysis carried out.
- 4) If the appliance is asbestos-free, you will receive a sticker to mark it as such.
- 5) If asbestos is detected, SSHE will organise the collection and disposal of the appliance.
- 6) Remediation and reuse is only possible in exceptional cases and must be paid for by the user.

Equipment containing asbestos must be professionally remediated and disposed of by specialist companies. The costs incurred for this are borne by SSHE.

## Further information on asbestos

- Suva: [www.suva.ch/asbest](http://www.suva.ch/asbest)
- Forum Asbest Schweiz: [www.forum-asbest.ch](http://www.forum-asbest.ch)
- VABS/FAGES: <https://polludoc.ch/de>



ETH Zurich  
Safety, Security, Health and Environment administrative department (SSHE)

Tel.: +41 44 632 30 30  
[sgu-gebaeudeschadstoffe@ethz.ch](mailto:sgu-gebaeudeschadstoffe@ethz.ch)  
[www.sicherheit.ethz.ch](http://www.sicherheit.ethz.ch)  
Stand: April 2024

**Parts containing asbestos (not conclusive)**

 <p><b>Seal</b> whitish fabric</p>	 <p><b>Seal</b> whitish fabric</p>	 <p><b>Casing</b> fibre cement</p>
 <p><b>Seal</b> lightweight board</p>	 <p><b>Seal</b> lightweight board</p>	 <p><b>Insulation</b> cardboard-like board (here: between casing and fire-brick)</p>
 <p><b>Plant table</b> fibre cement slabs</p>	 <p><b>Window cold frame</b> window putty</p>	 <p><b>Wire gauze</b> with asbestos coating</p>
 <p><b>Fireproof gloves</b> whitish fabric</p>	 <p><b>Heating mantle</b> whitish fabric</p>	

**Non-asbestos seals**

 <p><b>Rubber</b></p>	 <p><b>Plastics</b></p>	 <p><b>Fabric</b></p>
--	--	--