

News Release

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Beware of the hidden killer working in West Cumbria

With so many people still rebuilding homes and businesses after the November floods, West Coast Thermal (WCT) has been reminding people to consider implications and risks of asbestos in property - some of which can be present in unfamiliar places like floor tiles and Artex ceilings.

“Tradesmen must take heed of the £1.2 million HSE campaign warning of the dangers of Asbestos as they work in West Cumbria” says Barry Graham Asbestos Specialist from West Coast Thermal in Workington, “but the general public working on their own homes may be unaware of the dangers.”

With so many damaged properties in Keswick, Cockermouth and Workington it is even more important to ensure tradesmen and property owners are not putting their lives at unnecessary risk.

Anyone working on property built before 2000 could be exposed to asbestos without realising it - and there are a staggering 4000 people who still die every year of asbestos related illnesses. Those at greatest risk are builders, electricians and plumbers - where alarmingly, there are 20 tradesmen a week who die from asbestos related illnesses. More than 360 Cumbrian men died from asbestos related disease ‘Mesotheliom’ between 1981 and 2005.

Barry Graham said “legislation came into place in November 2006* which means commercial property owners have a Duty to Manage asbestos. All business premises should now have an Asbestos survey/register which will be a great help to tradesmen working on the property. This is intended to safeguard employees as well as tradesmen but does not apply to domestic property.

Barry explained “We have a licence to carry out surveys and asbestos removal, but have only been asked to look at a few properties because most of the insurance companies are bringing in their own tradesmen and specialists. We have just completed several surveys and work on properties in Cockermouth at the request of local builders who were unsure if the properties were asbestos free - they followed the correct principal of ‘if in doubt check it out’, protecting their staff and those living in the area.



Anyone who is concerned about asbestos in their properties should contact Barry Graham on 01900 65327