

Managing hazardous materials in Duffy Primary School

The ACT Government is committed to ensuring all public school buildings are safe and have the infrastructure to support high-quality education.

Most ACT public schools were built at a time when asbestos and lead paint were widely used in the building industry. As [a recently 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 or sheet asbestos.

Duffy Primary was opened in 1973 and both lead paint and asbestos are present at our school.

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

If you have any general questions about how we manage hazardous materials drop by the front office, or come along to an information night at Canberra College on Tuesday 11 May from 6-8pm.

The session will include members of the Education Directorate's Hazardous Materials Taskforce, and lead paint expert Professor Mark Taylor. He is one of the specialists guiding hazardous materials work in ACT public schools ensuring our management is informed by international best practice.

The ACT Government has committed \$15 million to remove hazardous materials from public schools during the next four years. This is in addition to a school upgrade budget of \$99 million which will also help manage lead paint and asbestos.

You can learn more about how hazardous materials are safely managed in our public schools [on the Education Directorate's website](#). It has a fact sheet about lead paint, details about the Directorate's commitment and approach to managing hazardous materials, and it links to a new [ACT Health fact sheet about lead exposure and your health](#).