

Mulch removal and replacement works: How we are protecting your health factsheet | 2024

NSW Health has advised the risk of illness for anyone who has come in contact with the mulch material is low because the particles are relatively small and are bonded asbestos. The type is known as bonded asbestos as it is chemically bonded to a solid material, such as cement. They are solid and rigid, with the asbestos fibers tightly bound within them and unlikely to be released into the air.

During mulch removal

The safety of the community will remain a priority during the removal and replacement of the mulch for John Holland CPB Contractors (JHCPB). JHCPB will maintain exclusion zones, conduct air monitoring, and use dust suppression to control the risk of airborne particles.

Air monitoring

Air monitoring will be installed by qualified occupational hygienist at the following locations;

- Stockpiles
- Inside cabs of machines
- Around active mulch removal work areas
- In pocket parks outside Rozelle Parklands

The number of air monitors at each location is determined daily by the qualified occupational hygienist and is done to sufficiently surround the zone for monitoring. Monitoring around the site for air borne particles has been in place and will continue throughout the clean-up work.

Dust Mitigation

During mulch removal works, the following methods will be used to minimise dust generation:

- dampening the surface of the mulch with low pressure mist water hoses before removing
- If stockpiles remain at end of shift and will be on site overnight, they must be sufficiently covered
- air monitoring installed
- stopping work in strong winds
- employing controls to prevent the spread of loose material around the site such as sealed and covered bins on trucks
- fitting HEPA filters to vacuum excavator trucks
- exclusion zones maintained to active work areas

After mulch removal

Once the mulch has been removed from the Parklands and surrounding locations, the area will be inspected by an independent occupational hygienists. A clearance certificate will be issued by a licensed Asbestos Assessor.

The replacement organic mulch will comply with Australian Standards and be entirely from fresh natural sources. There will be no recycled content in the replacement mulch. Replacement organic mulch will be tested by the suppliers, as well as independent qualified consultants to ensure the material is free of contaminants. The testing of the organic mulch will occur prior to delivery and then again once received at the parklands and surrounding areas. This testing process will be reviewed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) site auditor and all stockpiles of material delivered will be checked by a suitably qualified person prior to placement.



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