

Press release
6 January 2011

New Year, revamped home? Think twice before you get started on DIY

With many of us planning to start the New Year with home renovations, Hackney Homes is advising all residents about simple precautions to consider before getting started.

Jim Paterson, Hackney Homes Head of Building Maintenance said: “A quick and simple DIY job can transform your home but can also cause problems. We want to provide residents with the right information to address any problems they may encounter”.

Here are some common issues that you may encounter when carrying out works in your home:

- **Asbestos:** Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral that has been used in a range of building materials to make them more rigid and fire resistant. It is usually found in walls, ceilings, floor tiles and bath panels. Before you drill or disturb anything in your home, you should speak to Hackney Homes to ensure that these items do not contain asbestos.
- **Painting:** if you are planning to paint, you should leave plenty of time for preparation as mistakes can be expensive. Try out sampled of paint first, always follow the manufacturer’s instructions and make sure you use a good undercoat.
- **Installing new appliances:** if you buy new appliances such as gas cookers or washing machines, ensure that these are fitted by qualified tradespersons. This will ensure that the appliances are safe for you to use and they do not pose a risk to your neighbours,

You may need permission from Hackney Homes to carry out some works in your home. Please speak to staff from your local Neighbourhood Housing Office.

Additional information is available via the Hackney Homes website www.hackneyhomes.org.uk

-Ends-

Press queries to Olaide Oyekanmi on 020 8356 3522, or email olaide.oyekanmi@hackneyhomes.org.uk

Notes to Editors

- Hackney Homes is an arms-length management organisation managing around 30,000 council properties in the borough of Hackney.