




Know your WHS duties

# Demolition work

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**Demolition work means to knock down or dismantle a structure, or part of a structure, that is load-bearing or related to the physical integrity of the structure.**

A structure is a fixed or moveable, temporary or permanent constructed object. For example:

- Buildings
- Sheds
- Towers
- Chimney stacks
- Storage tanks

Demolition work does not include:

- dismantling structures that provide support, access or containment during construction work, for example,



formwork, falsework or scaffolding.

- removing power, light or telecommunication poles.

## PCBU specific duties

As a person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU), you have a duty to manage the risks of demolition work. Other specific duties include:

- ensuring that workers have the relevant licence to perform demolition work. Demolition work can involve disturbing asbestos and explosives and such work may require workers to have the relevant licence. For more information about high-risk work licences, contact [your local WHS regulator](#).
- notifying your WHS regulator at least 5 days before you:
  - demolish a structure, or a part of a structure that is load bearing or otherwise related to the physical integrity of the structure, that is at least 6 meters high,
  - demolition work involving load shifting machinery on a suspended floor,
  - demolition work involving explosives.
- obtaining a copy of the asbestos register from the person with management or control of the workplace and check the asbestos register before work begins. If there is no register, a competent person must inspect the structure for asbestos. Any asbestos which demolition work may disturb must be removed before demolition work can begin.
- preparing a safe work method statement (SWMS) if demolition work constitutes [high risk construction work](#). For more information on SWMS, please refer to our [information sheet on SWMS](#). To learn more about how to prepare a SWMS, please click here to access our interactive SWMS tool.

## For more information

### Model Codes of Practice

- [Demolition work](#)
- [Construction work](#)
- [How to safely remove asbestos](#)
- [How to manage work health and safety risks](#)

### Other resources



- Model WHS Regulations - [Part 4.6](#)
- Model WHS Regulations - [Part 8.6](#)
- Safe Work Australia webpage - [Demolition](#)
- The [interactive safe work method statement \(SWMS\) tool](#) provides information on preparing, using and reviewing SWMS for high risk construction work.



## Did you know

The [WHS regulator in your state or territory](#) can provide practical advice, resources and tools to help you be safe when working in construction. They can also let you know which WHS laws apply to you.

This tool is only available for selected industries at this stage. If you are looking for information relating to industries not covered by this tool, check out our industry and business information.

## Further Advice

SWA is not a regulator and cannot advise you about WHS issues in the workplace. If you need help please contact your [state or territory work health and safety authority](#).

