

CASE STUDY

Safe Asbestos Primer Removal Using RapidBlast™ Equipment



About Perfect Contracting

Perfect Contracting is a national leader in demolition, decommissioning, and hazardous material removal. Known for delivering high-risk projects in infrastructure, defence, mining, and commercial sectors, the company operates with ISO-certified systems and an in-house fleet of specialist equipment. Their expertise in asbestos and lead paint removal has positioned them as a trusted partner for complex demolition works.

The Challenge

A property redevelopment in Darwin's CBD uncovered a dangerous hidden layer – a primer containing friable asbestos beneath the visible facade coating. Removal needed to be completed before demolition, without releasing asbestos fibres into the busy surrounding area. The project demanded strict environmental controls, engineered containment, and technology capable of safe, high-volume removal.

Project Complexity

The project, located in Darwin, Northern Territory, involves the removal of asbestos-contaminated primer from 6,500 m² of concrete block walls over a seven-month period. It presents significant challenges due to its tight CBD location with high pedestrian and vehicle traffic, requiring careful planning to ensure safety and minimal disruption.

The extreme Northern Territory heat and humidity will add to operational difficulties, while coordination with demolition sequencing and other trades will be essential to maintain efficiency and avoid delays. Additionally, strict regulatory compliance for the disposal of hazardous waste will be a critical component of the project's execution.



The Solution: RapidBlast™ Dustless Blasting Equipment

Perfect Contracting mobilised a RapidBlast SD Series dustless blasting system from Quantum Blast Technologies to safely remove the asbestos-containing primer while effectively controlling airborne contaminants. This wet abrasive blasting method offered key advantages, including superior dust suppression that virtually eliminated airborne fibres, precision removal that preserved the integrity of the underlying blockwork, and faster production rates.



Industry Validation

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers demonstrated that engineered wet abrasive blasting can remove asbestos and lead-containing coatings safely and effectively. They recommend it for projects where airborne contaminant control is critical, due to its ability to minimise dust emissions while maintaining high removal efficiency. This validation reinforces its selection for sensitive, high-risk projects.

Environmental Benefits

The RapidBlast system delivered multiple environmental and operational benefits, including significantly reduced dust emissions compared to dry blasting, lower water usage through controlled slurry collection, and reduced energy consumption thanks to faster removal rates. These efficiencies, combined with full compliance with environmental protection regulations, ensured a safer, cleaner, and more sustainable approach to the project.

Hazard Control Highlights

Airborne Fibres

Negative pressure containment, wet blasting, constant air monitoring

Heat Stress

Hydration stations, air conditioned breaks, work rest cycles

Water Hazards

Non-slip platforms, scaffold inspections

Cross Contamination

3-stage decon units, PPE protocols



The Outcome

A total of 6,500 m² of asbestos primer was safely removed, with independent hygienist clearance achieved to confirm the area's safety. The project was completed with zero safety incidents and delivered on schedule, enabling demolition works to proceed without delay.

Client Testimonial

"RapidBlast gave us the confidence to complete asbestos primer removal in a high-risk urban site without compromising safety or schedule. It is now our go-to solution for hazardous coating removal."

Mateusz Jedruszek
(Managing Director)
Perfect Contracting



Clearance Secured.. Perfect Contracting Delivered..

After seven months, the entire building exterior was successfully cleared of hazardous coatings, with air hygiene tests passed across all monitored locations. A full clearance certificate was issued by an independent hygienist, and the project transitioned seamlessly into top-down demolition, which was completed without incident.

Lessons Learned For The Industry

Hazards are not always visible. Coatings such as paint, primer, and adhesives can carry significant risks. Containment must be engineered, not just erected, to ensure effectiveness.

Specialist capability is essential, as not every contractor can deliver in remote, high-risk environments. Technology plays a critical role in safety, with wet blasting systems like RapidBlast proving to be a game-changer.

Above all, worker welfare must remain the top priority — people first, always!