

This week Formentera's Office of Environment will continue a push to encourage islanders to remove uralite (or more commonly, asbestos) from their homes.

The first days of the effort saw crews focussed on removing the offending material and asphalt cloth in nine areas near rubbish containers. Home visits kicked off this Thursday.

Environment secretary Daisee Aguilera was enthusiastic about the interest Formenterencs have demonstrated in ridding their homes of the hazardous material. She noted this year about forty households have requested the service, which involves employees from an authorised firm overseeing controlled pick-up and treatment.

The Council helps out households by partially reimbursing costs of removal and transport of the asbestos to the Spanish mainland, not to mention by providing the special sacks used in the process. Participating renters and homeowners are charged a fee based on the sort and amount of material removed, with the final sum reflecting the Council's collaboration.

The asbestos-removal initiative was agreed on at the Formentera Council's August plenary assembly.