



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Answered by our experts

## Asbestos

### What is Asbestos?

Asbestos is a naturally occurring fibrous mineral typically chrysotile, that is heat resistant, has good tensile strength and is resistant to chemical erosion. Because of this, it was a popular building material from the 1950's to 1990's.

### What is the danger with Asbestos?

If not handled correctly, workers are in danger of inhaling asbestos-contaminated air. If someone is exposed to asbestos over a long period of time, serious chronic health problems can occur. Asbestos exposure can cause the following diseases:

- Mesothelioma
- Asbestos-related lung cancer
- Asbestosis
- Pleural thickening

### Can I be in the house while the Asbestos is being removed?

Yes, you certainly can. All air will be filtered through specialized machines and vented to the outside. However, if the dwelling is small with no entrance through the back, we may be blocking off access to the utilities and it may be more comfortable for you to leave for the day.

## Vermiculite

### How do I know if I have Vermiculite in my attic?

A quick way to tell is if it looks like cat litter you should have it tested. In some cases, Vermiculite may be hidden underneath other forms of insulation such as, fiberglass or cellulose.



# FAQs

## Mould

### What is the danger with Mould?

The issue with mould is that it affects everyone differently. Two people with the same level of exposure may have different reactions. Exposure to mould can lead to the following health issues: eye, nose and throat irritation; coughing and phlegm build up; flu-like symptoms; wheezing and shortness of breath; respiratory problems; allergies; worsening asthma symptoms for people who already have it.

### What causes Mould?

In order for mould to grow it needs to have a proper living condition which consists of: (1) an organic food source, (2) moisture, and (3) humidity.

### How do I prevent further Mould growth?

In order to prevent further mould growth you need to remove one of the three necessary elements required to sustain proper living conditions.

## Disposal

### How do I know if my drywall contains asbestos?

If your home was built or renovated before 1990 there is a chance the drywall may contain asbestos. Until 1990, the tape and joint compound, or mud, used to seal the seams and fill gaps between drywall boards may have contained asbestos. Since the mud is feathered to cover large areas with a smooth finish, the entire drywall sheet should be treated as containing asbestos.

### How should the materials be packaged?

Industry regulations require that asbestos waste is double bagged in 6-mil polyethylene asbestos labelled bags (note: look for bags with a placard and the 9UN classification). In order to ensure that the materials are packaged safely for our employees, we require that bags weigh no more than 15kg per bag. If individual bags weigh more than 15kg there will be a surcharge. When sealing the bags we ask that you seal it with tape as seen in the picture on our disposal services' pages.

### How should the bags be tied/sealed?

In order to properly seal the bags twist the top of the bag 3 to 4 times (to get all of the air out) and then using duct tape, wrap the top of the bag 3 to 4 times. Repeat the process for the double bag procedure. An example of how the bag should look can be found on our disposal services page.

### Where can I get asbestos labelled bags?

Asbestos labelled bags can be difficult for homeowners to find. While the local hardware stores do sell bags, they do not meet our label and thickness requirements as per our waste handling guidelines under WCB. Supply shops such as Hazmasters do carry the appropriate bags; however, they sell them by the roll rather than individually. With that being said, we can provide homeowners with 6-mil asbestos labelled bags for a minimal fee.

