

A MESSAGE FROM KEN ROBINSON

*Vice President of Marketing
and Field Operations*

Believe-It-Or-Not, most homes today are filled with hazardous, toxic, poisonous and contaminated materials waiting to be released into the environment and make people sick. Let's consider the possibilities: for starters, how about some old paint or maybe the odd can of spray paint. We all have cleaning products such as bleach or ammonia. These items are found from the basement to the bedroom.



In homes built prior to 1982 there is a chance that some building materials may contain trace amounts of asbestos. Now there is no need to panic, as long as the material is not disturbed. It is the removal process that can create a problem. Some materials you will recognize in your home that may

contain asbestos are; 12 x 12 vinyl asphalt floor tiles and certain types of insulation.

I'll bet you didn't know that drywall compound could contain asbestos if it was installed prior to 1982. The new regulation under the Occupational Health and Safety Act of Ontario states that drywall must be tested or treated as an asbestos containing material and be removed accordingly.

Dealing with the dangerous materials mentioned above is tough in the best of situations, but when you add a fire or flood setting it's daunting. Labels might have been burned off or the materials could have spilled onto the floor contaminating other items.

Careful consideration is now required before the tear out process in any restoration project can begin. The discovery of either mould or asbestos may affect coverage and will definitely influence the cost.

In the coming months we plan to touch on various safety and environmental concerns now facing the construction and restoration industries. This month I hope we can shed some light on what happens when we have to dispose of asbestos and mould.

GETTING IT RIGHT – GARBAGE AND WASTE DISPOSAL

By Jessica Campbell

On the surface and for most of us, garbage and waste management is simple: segregate out the recyclables, put it out at the curb on the designated day and forget about it. For those of us involved in the waste services industry, as we at PDS are, garbage can and often is a complex mixture of materials governed by a number of complicated federal, provincial and, in the larger urban centres, often municipal rules.

Homeowners have it easy: rules affecting waste characterization and management do not apply as provincial rules exempt household waste put at the curb from being a hazardous waste (even if the homeowner does throw out batteries and half full bottles of cleaning fluid). Commercial and industrial generators of waste are not so lucky as they are held ultimately responsible for the proper characterization and legal disposal of their waste. It's called "cradle-to-grave" waste management.

As leaders in the remediation industry, our customers rely on us to advise and manage the waste associated with remediation and cleanup activities at their sites. Water damaged building materials and damaged goods can include a number of materials requiring special handling and/or special disposal that we will deal with here: asbestos and mould.

What is Asbestos?

Asbestos is a group of naturally occurring fibrous silicate minerals used for their high tensile strength, heat/chemically resistant, durable, flexible properties. Asbestos-containing material (ACM) is material that contains asbestos in more than trivial amounts. Friable Asbestos is the most dangerous and is that which is easily crushed by hand pressure (i.e.

insulation). Non-Friable Asbestos will release fibres only if cut, broken, damaged or worked with power tools (i.e. floor tile).

Dangers with Asbestos

Released asbestos fibres are small and light enough to stay airborne for a long time, be inhaled and trapped in lung tissue. What makes the asbestos hazard so insidious is that the effects and diseases often do not

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Jessica Campbell MSc., CEA



Working with PDS Canada



Professional Standards

- Every franchisee has IICRC and Mould Remediation Certification
- Emergency Response Program
- 24-hour emergency service
- 2-hour response time

Consistent Job Costing

PDS Canada provides accurate and professional estimates within 48 hours of a claim, utilizing Xactimate software.

Efficient Project Management

Projects are monitored and managed utilizing our Job Processing Program software to deliver high quality work on time, and on budget.

Risk-Free Service

All PDS Canada work is guaranteed through our CSI Warranty Program.

Services

- Full General Contracting
- Full Cleaning Services, Building and Contents
- Emergency After Hour Services
- Secure Contents Storage
- Mould Remediation

Getting It Right – Garb

appear until 15-40 years after the exposure. There are several diseases associated with exposure to asbestos:

- Asbestosis – Irreversible scarring of lung tissue which makes breathing difficult
- Mesothelioma – Rare cancer of lining of the lungs or abdomen
- Lung cancer or other cancers

Identification of Asbestos

Asbestos fibres cannot be seen with the naked eye and can only be accurately identified through laboratory analysis. Asbestos minerals which have been used commercially include: chrysotile, amosite and crocidolite.

Possible Sources of Asbestos:

In the field, we can protect ourselves by being aware of potential sources of ACM. ACM is commonly found in insulators (acoustic & thermal), fire proofing and building materials including, but not limited to:

- Floor tiles, roofing shingles
- Cement wallboard, fire proofing for buildings
- Plasters
- Spray/blown insulation, duct/pipe insulation
- Elevator brake shoes, elevator paneling.

Asbestos Packaging, Transport & Disposal

Asbestos is considered an environmentally non-hazardous waste and can go to a solid waste landfill, however due to the health hazards it must be properly managed until final disposal occurs. Asbestos must be packaged in 6 mil polyethylene plastic and transported in a rigid, impermeable, sealed container and not in a compaction-type container or vehicle. Under the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulation (Federal), asbestos is considered a Class 9 substance: a substance that is considered dangerous to life, health, property or the environment when handled or transported. As a TDG regulated material, all asbestos loads must display on all 4 sides of the vehicle/container TDG class 9 “hash marks” placard. Note that in Ontario there are additional placard requirements. Vehicles used for the transport of asbestos must be equipped with emergency spill cleanup equipment and drivers who transport asbestos must be trained in the Transportation of Dangerous Goods. Further, prior to the transport to final disposal, the final disposal site must have been contacted, agreed to accept the asbestos load and been advised of the estimated time of arrival. Due to the potential hazards, asbestos must not be transferred at a transfer station under any circumstances, but must be transported directly from generator to final disposal site.

Mould

Mould containing waste material is not considered an environmentally hazardous waste in Canada. Further, there are not waste-related rules that govern the management or disposal of material contaminated with mould. However, we have chosen to discuss mould contaminated waste material here because it is a



Asbestos-containing materials were used widely throughout Canada. This naturally occurring mineral was used in building construction for its thermal properties, electrical resistance and its ability to withstand chemical breakdown. Section 20 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act requires a building owner to determine whether any designated substances (11 designated substances) such as asbestos are present at project site prior to construction activities.

waste type that we at PDS frequently encounter. Further, it has many similar properties to asbestos and consequently, a similar waste management protocol is recommended, particularly for heavily contaminated material.

What is mould?

Mould is a very large group of microscopic fungi that thrive on moist and porous matter such as wet drywall and damp wood. Moulds are filamentous and thus have a large surface area to produce spores, some of which may be toxic to humans. Spores are easily spread by air, water, and insects.

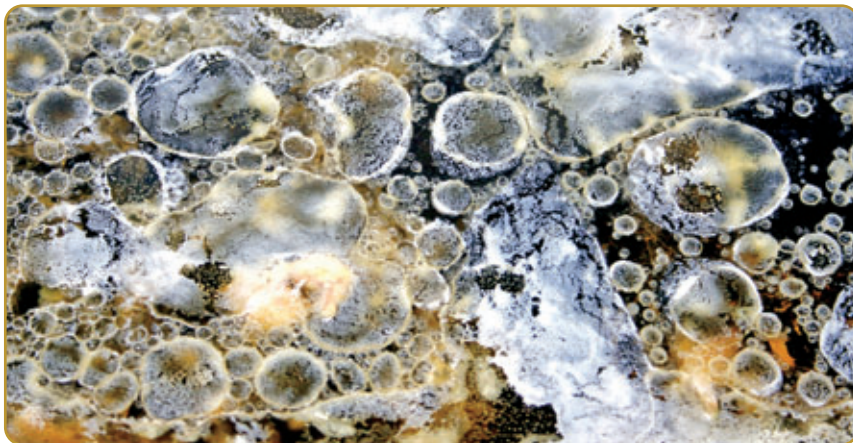
Dangers with Mould

Although most common types of mould are generally not hazardous to healthy individuals, some moulds may be hazardous to certain individuals. However, repeated exposure to high levels of mould spores may also have serious effects on a “healthy” individual. Health effects can range from simple head aches, sinus or breathing problems to more severe nose bleeds, skin rashes, bleeding of the lungs, cancer, even death. Individuals at higher risk of illness from exposure to mould include:

- Individuals with existing respiratory conditions, such as allergies, chemical sensitivities, or asthma.
- Persons with weakened immune systems (such as people with HIV infection, cancer chemotherapy patients).
- Infants and young children.
- The elderly.

Mould Packaging, Transport & Disposal

Mould contaminated waste is considered an environmentally non-hazardous waste and can go to a solid waste landfill, however due to the potential health hazards it should be properly managed until final disposal occurs. Mould should be wrapped or bagged in 6 milliliter polyethylene plastic and transported in a rigid, impermeable, sealed container and not in a compaction-type container. Prior to the transport to final disposal, the final disposal site should be contacted, agree to accept the mould contaminated load, and been advised of the estimated time of arrival. Due to the potential hazards, mould contaminated waste should not be transferred at a transfer station, but should be transported directly from generator to final disposal site.



Moisture, water infiltration or chronic water damage combined with the presence of cellulose building materials (wood, drywall, ceiling tiles, etc.), furnishings and products allows moulds to grow and proliferate within buildings. Under these conditions mould growth indoors can present a risk to the building structure itself (through decomposition of building materials) as well as to occupants in the building (through potentially adverse health effects which are still not well understood).

CSI – Risk Free Services

CSI stands for Completion Services Inc. It is an independent corporation owned and funded by all authorized Paul Davis Restoration’s offices.

This warranty is unique in our industry as it allows us to provide our services risk-free.

Backed by the CSI Guaranty, a standard customer survey is used along with signed work orders and Completion Certificates.

CSI certificates are issued yearly at the insurer’s request, and cover individual per job occurrences up to \$50,000.

This program guarantees job completion and payment and it also guarantees risk free service for the Insurer.

PACK-OUT SERVICES

Paul Davis Systems has integrated Assured Software’s Pack-Out Inventory Program with our PDS pack-out and cleaning procedures. After contents leave the insured’s property we are able to provide a detailed content listing with integrated photos.

This list breaks out damaged and salvaged items. It lists and photographs existing and pre-existing conditions and, it can be provided in many electronic formats.

For the contents being cleaned, the process is streamlined keeping a full chain of custody as the contents travel from the home to the cleaning facility where they are cleaned, stored and returned.

24-HOUR NATIONAL RESPONSE CENTRE 800-661-5975

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The Leader
PDS Canada

Meet Michael Hall PDS of St. John's

Michael has a very unique background. He became a professional Firefighter for the city of St. John's in 1994, began his construction business Home Renewal in 1997, and in November 2005 opened PDS of St. John's.

"Nothing compares to the feeling of helping others in need, both in my career as a firefighter and in rendering assistance to restore and reconstruct a family's home and life" comments Michael. Since joining the PDS network of companies, we have realized that our family has grown into a national network of companies, all working with a common goal, to provide you with the most professional service possible in your time of need. PDS of St. John's is a full service IICRC firm that welcomes your business.



DID YOU KNOW?

For a disinfectant to work it must stay wet on the surface for ten minutes and then must be cleaned off.

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