



NIAGARA
REGIONAL
HOUSING



NRH Notice

NUMBER: 05-02

DATE: May 10, 2005

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mandatory
<input type="checkbox"/>	For Information

Applicable to:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Municipal & Private Non Profit
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Co-operatives
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Federal Non-Profits
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	OCHAP/CSHP
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rent Supplement

Subject: Asbestos – potential health risk due to asbestos in loose fill vermiculite insulation

Background:

This notice is to advise of information recently provided by Health Canada concerning loose fill vermiculite insulation. Until now this type of insulation was considered to be safe and non-toxic. Health Canada now warns that asbestos is present in certain brands of vermiculite. Since asbestos regulations have been in force for fourteen years, this notice is to serve as a reminder that as building owners you must have an active asbestos management program in place which meets with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*:

- Designated Substance – Asbestos, R.R.O. 1990, Regulation 837, and
- Designated Substance – Asbestos on Construction Projects and in Buildings and Repair Operations, R.R.O. 1990, Regulation 838

Implementation:

♦ Service Manager's Role

Service managers are responsible for ensuring all housing providers operate their portfolios in accordance with all applicable statutes and regulations, including those regarding asbestos. Niagara Regional Housing will review housing provider compliance with this requirement during the operational review process.

♦ Housing Provider's Role

Under the above noted *Occupational Health and Safety Act* regulations, all landlords must do the following:

- ✓ Inventory asbestos containing materials in their portfolio
- ✓ Train all staff who are likely to contact asbestos
- ✓ Notify contractors if they may contact asbestos during their work, and
- ✓ Abate certain asbestos containing materials.

The Health Canada notice regarding this issue is available at <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca> or at <http://www.cmhc.ca>. Follow the links for asbestos.

If you have any questions regarding this Notice, please contact your Housing Administrator.

Lora Beckwith
General Manager