

IMPORTANT NOTICE: POTENTIAL DISTURBANCE OF ASBESTOS CONTAINING MATERIALS AND LEAD BASED PAINT DURING DECONTAMINATION OF CLANDESTINE METHAMPHETAMINE LABORATORIES

Decontamination of clandestine methamphetamine laboratories may involve demolition, removal or disturbance of building materials that may contain asbestos and lead-based paint. Owners, responsible parties and contractors must be aware of these potential hazards and take necessary precautions to protect workers and future occupants.

Asbestos

Asbestos containing materials may be disturbed in any building being renovated or demolished. Materials that could contain asbestos include: sound proofing, decorative materials sprayed on walls, textured ceilings, patching and joint compounds, textured paints, roofing, shingles and siding; floor tiles, vinyl and linoleum flooring and any associated adhesives. Removing, cutting, sanding, drilling, scraping, sawing, grinding and any activity that disturbs asbestos-containing materials may release asbestos fibers into the air.

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, Health Hazards Control Unit (HHCU) administers the Asbestos Hazard Management Program. Only North Carolina Accredited Asbestos Inspectors can sample suspect materials to determine asbestos content. State law may require that asbestos materials are removed by accredited workers, with appropriate training, equipment and supplies to handle and safely remove and dispose of asbestos containing materials. A State issued permit for the removal of asbestos materials may be required, in addition to any local permitting requirements. A list of accredited professionals who can inspect and remove asbestos containing materials can be found, the publication *Asbestos in Your Home*, and additional information and guidance about inspections and managing asbestos containing materials can be found at <http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/asbestos/ahmp.html> or obtained by contacting the HHCU at (919) 707-5950

Lead-Based Paint

The HHCU also administers the Lead-Based Paint Hazard Management programs for Abatement Activities (LHMP) and for Renovation Painting and Repair (LHMP-RRP). A lead-based paint hazard may be created during decontamination of dwellings built before 1978, if lead-based paint or other surface coatings are disturbed. Professionals that inspect, perform risk assessments and perform lead-based paint abatement must be certified through the HHCU. In addition, firms and individuals that perform renovation, repair and painting activities for compensation which disturb lead-based paint in residential or child-occupied facilities must be certified through the HHCU and use lead-safe work practices. A list of North Carolina certified lead professionals, the publication *The Lead-Safe Guide to Renovate Right* and additional information and guidance can be found at <http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/lead/lhmp.html>, or by contacting the HHCU at (919) 707-5950.