Asbestos – what you need to know:

• Many homes and offices built prior to 1990 contain some form of asbestos
• Asbestos can be found in more than 3,000 building materials
• Asbestos-related lung diseases are preventable, and yet, remain the single largest killer of workers in Manitoba
• Most of those workers who have died from exposure to asbestos fibres were in the construction trades

Is asbestos lurking in your home? Here are some potential sources:

1. Roof felt and shingles
2. Loose, blown-in insulation, such as vermiculite
3. Incandescent light fixture backing
4. Roof gutters can be made of asbestos cement
5. Artificial fireplace logs and ashes
6. Acoustic tiles
7. Deck under-sheeting
8. Asbestos pad under the fireplace hearth
9. Pipe insulation
10. Main panel and fuse box; each fuse wire has an individual asbestos flash guard
11. Door and gasket covers
12. Backing behind recessed lighting
13. Boiler and furnace insulation
14. Asbestos can be found in stucco
15. Soffit boards can be made of asbestos cement or asbestos insulating board
16. Textured or stipple-coated walls and ceilings
17. Asbestos cement (transite) board siding and undersheeting
18. Outlets and switches
19. Gypsum board filling compound, and patching and joint compound for walls and ceilings
20. Window putty
21. Flooring: vinyl tiles and linoleum sheet flooring; flooring adhesive
22. Downpipes can be made of asbestos cement
23. Insulation on electrical wires
24. Heat reflector for wood stove
Asbestos – what you need to know:

The safe removal and disposal of asbestos is a shared responsibility. Homeowners, contractors, and workers all have a role to play. If your home was built before 1990, here are the steps you should take to keep everyone safe when renovating or demolishing your home:

Test for asbestos: Hire a competent consultant

1. Find a qualified reputable company to perform an asbestos inventory. Potential companies can be found from sources such as the yellow pages and SAFE Work Manitoba’s Occupational Safety and Health Resource Guide.
2. Ask the consultant how long they’ve been in business.
3. Make sure the consultant has the appropriate training and experience to perform an asbestos inventory. Ask for references.
4. The consultant should provide you with an asbestos inventory and control plan.

Asbestos removal: Hire a competent contractor

1. Hire a reputable contractor to do the asbestos removal. Potential companies can be found from sources such as the yellow pages and SAFE Work Manitoba’s Occupational Safety and Health Resource Guide.
2. Make sure the contractor has the experience, equipment (e.g., negative air units, personal protective equipment, hoarding) and safe work procedures to safely remove the asbestos.
3. Ask the contractor how long they’ve been in business and if they notified Workplace Safety and Health about the abatement project. It would be nice if WSH could provide the contractor with a document to prove that WSH was contacted so that they can have that onsite and also have a copy for the GC/owner.
4. After the asbestos removal, the contractor will provide you with air clearance from your consultant (or the consultant can provide to you directly) indicating if the abatement area is ready for occupancy.

For more information on the safe detection and removal of asbestos visit safemanitoba.com/asbestos