

# INFORMATION BULLETIN RENOVATION PROJECTS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Permits & Inspections Department  
Updated January 1, 2024

Effective **January 1, 2024**, this bulletin updates Permits & Inspections processing requirements and outlines WorkSafeBC changes for construction sites to be made safe for District of West Vancouver staff to enter.

In buildings constructed **prior to 1990**, WorkSafeBC requires a licensed **asbestos abatement contractor** to both conduct a hazardous materials (or hazmat) survey and abate when necessary. A property owner, or contractor working for a property owner, must ensure that their construction site is free of hazardous materials (these include asbestos, lead, mercury, etc.) To confirm your asbestos abatement contractor is licensed with WorkSafeBC or to learn more about the regulation, please visit [worksafebc.com](https://worksafebc.com) or call 604 276 3100.

Please note the following hazardous materials requirements for obtaining renovation permits and inspections:

## When is a hazmat survey required?

A hazmat survey is mandatory for renovations in buildings constructed **prior to 1990**. The survey must be prepared by a licensed asbestos abatement contractor, submitted along with your permit application to the Document Upload Centre, and finally approved by Permits & Inspections **in advance of permit issuance**. Please note the asbestos abatement contractor's license number must be included in all documents related to hazardous materials.

## When is abatement allowed?

If a hazmat survey confirms the presence of hazardous materials, the licensed asbestos abatement contractor may abate only **with an issued demolition permit or an issued building permit**. Abatement before permit issuance may be considered work without permit, and may result in a Stop Work Order, fines, and other escalated enforcements.

## When is a clearance letter required?

After the required abatement is completed by a licensed asbestos abatement contractor, submit a post-abatement clearance letter to [hazmat@westvancouver.ca](mailto:hazmat@westvancouver.ca) **before your first inspection is booked or attended by District staff**.

For questions about this bulletin or requirements about hazardous materials, please e-mail: [hazmat@westvancouver.ca](mailto:hazmat@westvancouver.ca)

