



Are you exposing your family to deadly asbestos fibres?

During the renovation of a kitchen, a contractor removed asbestos-containing linoleum flooring without taking any precautions. Asbestos dust drifted throughout the house, and family members were exposed to the asbestos fibres. The entire house had to be decontaminated.

What is asbestos?

Asbestos is a potentially deadly fibrous mineral that's very tough and resistant to chemicals and heat. Up until 1990, it was regularly used in ceiling texture, drywall mud, flooring, and attic insulation. If these materials are disturbed (such as when they are drilled, sawed, sanded, or broken up during renovations or demolition), workers and family members can breathe in asbestos fibres. If people breathe in enough asbestos fibres, their lungs can suffer permanent damage, and they may get lung cancer.

How do I find out if my house contains asbestos?

Have samples of suspected building products collected and sent to a laboratory for testing. **You should not do this yourself.** Have the samples collected by a qualified surveyor or consultant who is experienced in conducting asbestos hazard assessments. Ask to see his or her qualifications **before** any samples are collected. Remember, all asbestos—including hidden asbestos—must be identified!

How do I protect myself and my family?

For safety, all asbestos-containing materials must be removed by workers trained in asbestos removal and wearing protective clothing and a respirator. Unless you're trained and qualified, don't try it yourself. You are responsible if unprotected workers are exposed to asbestos while working in your home!

It is the homeowner's responsibility to check the qualifications of the asbestos consultant and the abatement or demolition contractors **before** any work involving asbestos begins.

For more information

For information on asbestos in houses, go to WorkSafeBC.com and search for *asbestos*.



Asbestos-containing vermiculite attic insulation

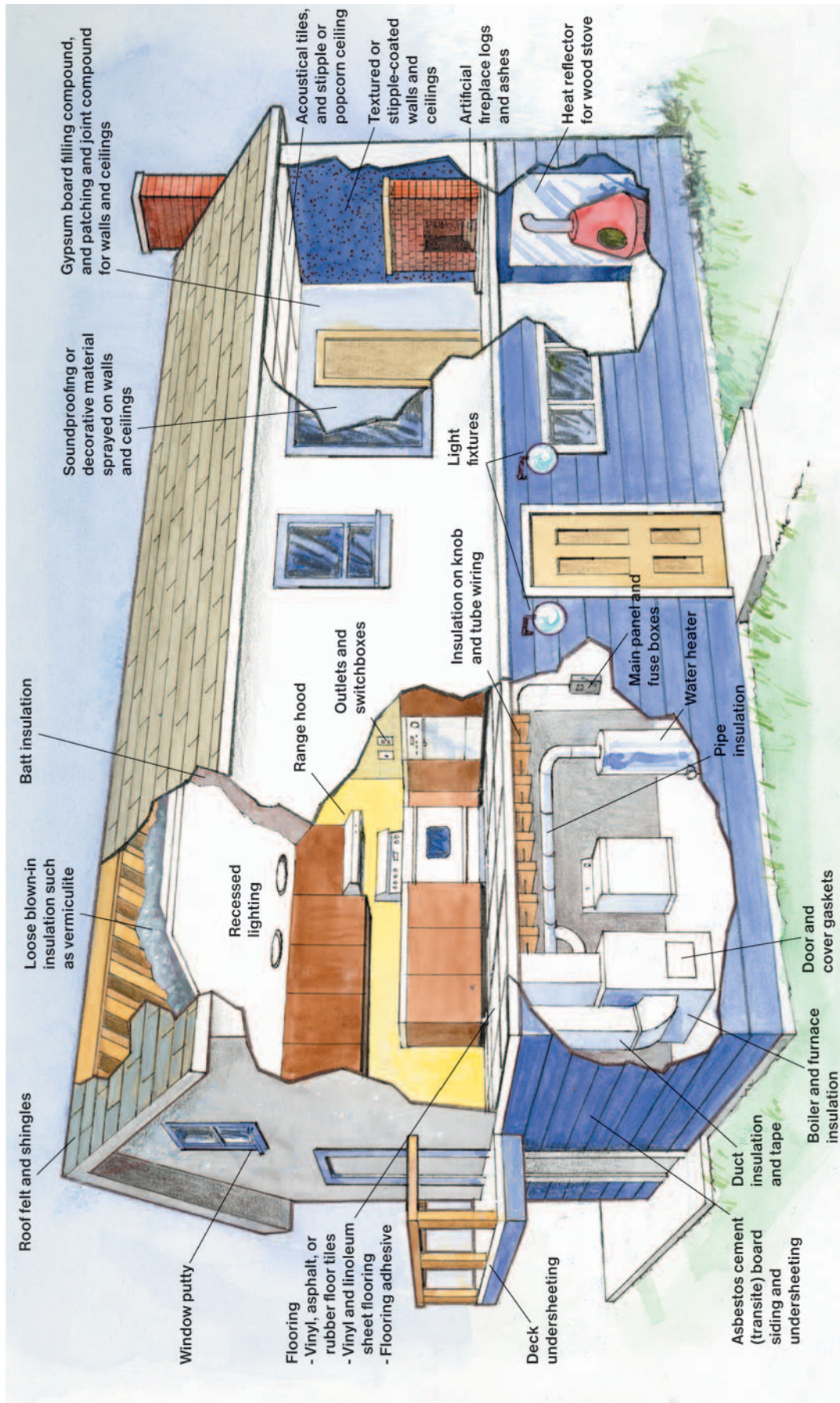


Asbestos fibres in vermiculite attic insulation



Protected worker removing asbestos flooring

Potential sources of asbestos



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