



VA WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM Information Notice 02-2016

TO: ALL WEATHERIZATION SUBGRANTEES
FROM: NANCY PALMER, HOUSING PROGRAMS MANAGER
DATE: 04/22/2016
SUBJECT: Weatherizing homes with Asbestos Containing Materials (ACMs)
EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediate

This information notice is intended to outline use of the Blower Door when homes contain an *Asbestos Containing Material (ACM)*. This notice supersedes guidance outlined in Chapter 5 – Health & Safety section of the Virginia Weatherization Assistance Program Operations Manual prohibiting the use of a Blower Door when an ACM is identified.

- Blower Doors in **Pressurization mode only** can be used to test homes with possible ACM. The use of depressurization mode is strictly forbidden when an ACM is present or suspected.
- Removal of siding is allowed to perform Energy Conservation Measures (ECMs). All precautions must be taken to not damage siding. Asbestos siding should never be cut or drilled. If installing wall insulation, it is preferred to insulate from the home's interior.
- When addressing homes with vermiculite, encapsulation by an appropriately trained asbestos control professional is an allowed H&S measure. Removal is not allowed.
- Clients should be instructed not to disturb suspected ACMs. Provide Asbestos safety information to the client and formally notify them if test results are positive for ACMs. Signed client acknowledgement shall be contained in the client's file.
- When suspected ACMs are located on pipes, furnaces, etc., assume Asbestos is present in the covering materials. Encapsulation is allowed by an AHERA (Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act) control professional. Removal may be allowed by an AHERA asbestos control professional on a case-by-case basis.
- When an ACM is identified and encapsulation or removal is prescribed, proof of professional abatement is required prior to continuing weatherization efforts.