

## **What is asbestos?**

Asbestos is the generic name of 6 different naturally-occurring fibrous minerals used in a wide range of building materials in housing built before the 1980's, and may be found in sprayed on fireproofing, pipe and boiler insulation, loose fill insulation, ceiling and floor tiles, drywall joint filling compound, and other building materials.

## **What are the health effects of asbestos exposure?**

Asbestos is a designated substance in Ontario; the presence of asbestos in a building does not mean that the health of building occupants is necessarily endangered; **where the materials remain intact and left undisturbed the health risk is negligible.**

The health risks associated with asbestos are as a result of breathing in airborne fibres if the material is cut, drilled, broken, or disturbed and the fibres become airborne. Inhaling harmful levels of airborne asbestos fibres is associated with asbestosis, mesothelioma and lung cancer.

## **Will the Asbestos be removed from my unit?**

Probably not; legislation does not require or recommend that all asbestos containing materials (ACMs) be removed from living spaces. Depending on the condition of the material and its potential for disturbance, the repair or removal of the ACMs may be assessed.

## **What should I do if there is asbestos in my housing unit?**

Do not disturb any building materials. Contact your building custodian or the Maintenance Line for any repairs or regular maintenance requests for your housing unit. Do not clean up any debris if building materials are disturbed (e.g. cut, drilled, broken); contact the Maintenance Line immediately to report the issue and make arrangements for a trained worker to carry out repairs in a safe manner in order to maintain a healthy environment.

For further information, the Counties Asbestos Management Plan can be found on the Counties website at [www.leedsgrenville.com](http://www.leedsgrenville.com), or contact the Maintenance Line at 613-342-3840 ext. 2118.