

## ***Asbestos Updates - June/July 2017***

### **Vermiculite in CMU Block Walls**

#### **Vermiculite in CMU Block Walls: What you should know**

Loose vermiculite found within CMU block walls must be properly abated prior to demolition when applicable work practices, specified within [Section 9.06.B or 9.06.C](#), are feasible (e.g. the structure is intact, the material is not mixed with debris/dirt, no hazardous condition exists for workers by employing the above referenced work practices.)

Some have suggested that the only way to deal with vermiculite within CMU walls is to demolish the walls with the vermiculite in place via an Alternate Work Plan ([refer to Section 9.08](#)) and dispose of the resulting debris as asbestos-containing waste material.

Spokane Clean Air has found, although labor intensive, standard work practices can be used. Each void within the CMU block wall system can be accessed, utilizing manual methods, to completely remove the loose vermiculite within. We have found that this method is the most effective in minimizing exposure to the public.

For additional information, please refer to these guidance documents:

- [When are Alternate Asbestos Project Work Practices Necessary](#)
- [Vermiculite Insulation Containing Asbestos](#)

