



January 10, 2018

## Nov, Dec, Jan *Asbestos Updates*

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### Roto-Hammers to Access Vermiculite within CMU Walls

**Question:**

Is the use of hand-held roto-hammer/rotary hammers on CMU walls to gain access to the vermiculite inside acceptable as a standard work practice?

**Answer:**

A roto-hammer is commonly used in these situations when the voids within CMU block walls must be opened up to abate the vermiculite that is sometimes found inside. When done properly, and in conjunction with the work practices specified within SRCAA Reg. I, Article IX, Sections 9.06.B and/or 9.06.C, the vermiculite is not expected to be disturbed any more than using a manual sledge hammer or a manual hammer and chisel on the blocks, and is considered acceptable as a standard work practice.

Note: This situation differs somewhat from SRCAA's determinations on "Approved Non-Manual Asbestos Removal Work Practices". The roto-hammer is being used to break and remove a portion of the non-ACM CMU to gain access to the ACM/vermiculite. The roto-hammer is not being used to remove the vermiculite directly.

**Guest Presentations** - Do you belong to a group or association that provides guest speakers at membership meetings? Staff at Spokane Clean Air are available to present to local organizations about our agency's programs and services. If interested, please [contact us](#) to arrange for a guest presenter.

*All of us at Spokane Clean Air want to wish you all a very happy and healthy New Year!*

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