OTTAWA ABATEMENT

Hiring & Quotes

Choosing an abatement contractor in Ottawa: the Type of the job in writing, Type 3 training and notice, WSIB clearance, what a written quote and contract should include, and comparing quotes

4 Expert Answers from Abatement IQ

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Q1

Is there a licence for asbestos removal companies in Ontario?

We found no Ontario licence, registration or permit for an asbestos abatement company. What the law requires instead are specific things you can verify: worker and supervisor training for Type 3 work, a notice to a Ministry of Labour inspector before Type 3 work begins, and WSIB registration.

Here is what Ontario law actually requires, and what to check.

For Type 3 operations, which cover the removal or disturbance of more than one square metre of friable asbestos-containing material, O. Reg. 278/05 section 20 requires that every worker must have successfully completed the Asbestos Abatement Worker Training Program approved by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development, and every supervisor the Asbestos Abatement Supervisor Training Program, before the work starts. Skilled Trades Ontario notes that Hazardous Materials Worker is a non-compulsory trade named under the Building Opportunities in the Skilled Trades Act, 2021, and that holders of that trade certificate also require an Asbestos Abatement Worker (253W AAW) certificate issued by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development. Because the trade is non-compulsory, holders do not appear on the Skilled Trades Ontario public register.

For Type 1 and Type 2 work, section 19 of the regulation requires the employer to ensure instruction and training by a competent person for every worker, but the formal approved-program requirement in section 20 applies to Type 3 only.

The Type itself, whether the job is Type 1, Type 2 or Type 3, depends on whether the material is friable and how much of it is disturbed. That is assessed on site by the contractor. Ask them to confirm the Type in writing before work starts, because the Type determines whether a Ministry of Labour inspector notice is required, whether the section 20 training applies, and whether a clearance air test under section 18 is needed.

On WSIB, anyone can search a contractor's current clearance online. A clearance certificate is valid for up to 90 days. That search is the one public check that is straightforward to do yourself.

Because we found no company licence to look up, ask each contractor for the Type in writing and, for Type 3, the workers' and supervisor's training; if you have a question about what the regulation requires, ask the Ministry of Labour.

Q2

How do I compare two asbestos abatement quotes in Ottawa?

Comparing Two Asbestos Abatement Quotes in Ottawa

Start by checking whether both quotes name the same Type of operation, because the Type decides what the contractor must do. Under O. Reg. 278/05, the Type depends on whether the material is friable and how much of it is being disturbed. A quote for Type 1 work carries far lighter requirements than one for Type 3, so if two quotes name different Types for the same job, ask each contractor to explain in writing why they classified it that way.

What to line up side by side:

- The Type of operation (1, 2 or 3) and the reasoning behind it
- Whether a Ministry of Labour inspector notice is included. For Type 3 work, O. Reg. 278/05 section 11(1) requires the constructor or employer to notify an inspector orally and in writing before starting. That notice is not a fee or a permit; it is a legal step. If one quote mentions it and the other does not, ask why.
- Whether a clearance air test is included. Section 18 of the regulation requires one after Type 3 work. Published prices read in September 2026 put that test at roughly $300 to $800. A quote that omits it for a Type 3 job is missing a required step.
- Where the waste goes. Ontario Regulation 347 section 17(1)1 says asbestos waste cannot leave the site until a disposal facility has agreed to accept it. Ask each contractor which facility they use and confirm it is arranged before work starts.
- A current WSIB clearance. You can search a contractor's current clearance on the WSIB website; a clearance is valid for up to 90 days.
- For Type 3 work, confirmation that workers have completed the Asbestos Abatement Worker Training Program and the supervisor the Asbestos Abatement Supervisor Training Program, both approved by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development, as required by O. Reg. 278/05 section 20(1).

What the numbers should look like: Published Ontario contractor prices read in September 2026 put general asbestos removal at $8 to $15 per square foot. Textured ceiling removal runs $6 to $12 per square foot, drywall joint compound $10 to $15, vinyl floor tile and mastic $5 to $15, and pipe or duct insulation $35 to $55 per linear foot. Some contractors publish a minimum charge for small jobs. If a quote comes in well below these ranges, ask what it leaves out and which Type it assumes.
On consumer protection: If a contractor comes to your home to sign the agreement, that is a direct agreement under the Consumer Protection Act, 2002. You have 10 days to cancel it without any reason after receiving the written copy. The Act is due to be replaced by the Consumer Protection Act, 2023, so check the current rules. The Construction Act generally requires a 10 per cent holdback; get advice for your situation.

If the material has already been disturbed before testing, stop the work, leave it alone, and have a professional test it before anything else happens, which is what Health Canada advises.

Q3

Should an Ottawa mould contractor find the moisture source first?

Yes, finding and fixing the moisture source is the first step, not an optional add-on. Mould returns if the water keeps coming in, so any remediation done before the source is addressed is temporary at best.

Health Canada classifies mould by area to help you decide how much professional involvement makes sense. A small area covers one to three patches, each less than one square metre. A medium area is more than three patches, or patches greater than one square metre but less than three square metres. An extensive area is a single patch larger than three square metres. Health Canada says you can generally clean small and medium areas yourself, and recommends that a qualified professional assess and clean up large areas. The moisture source question applies at every size: cleaning without fixing the leak, the condensation problem or the drainage issue just means the mould comes back.

A good contractor should walk through the moisture diagnosis before quoting the remediation. That means identifying where the water is entering or accumulating, whether it is a roof, a foundation, a plumbing leak, a ventilation gap or condensation on a cold surface, and confirming it can be corrected either by them or by a separate trade before the mould work begins. If a contractor quotes only on scrubbing or removing material without addressing the source, ask directly what happens if the moisture returns.

One thing to check before the mould work starts

If the affected area involves drywall, plaster, ceiling texture or flooring in a home built before 1990, raise the asbestos question before anything is cut or removed. Those materials may contain asbestos, and disturbing them without testing first changes the scope of the job significantly. Ontario's O. Reg. 278/05 governs asbestos work in Ottawa, and the Type of work, which determines what the contractor must do by law, depends on whether the material is friable and how much is disturbed. Ask the contractor to assess for asbestos before any demolition begins and to give you the Type classification in writing.

When you are comparing quotes, ask each contractor to describe how they will confirm the moisture source is resolved before they close up the wall or ceiling, and what their plan is if the source turns out to be more involved than expected.

If suspect material in the area has already been disturbed, stop the work, don't disturb it further, and have it tested by a professional.

Q4

How do I check an Ottawa abatement contractor's WSIB clearance?

Search the contractor's current clearance online through WSIB. The search shows whether they currently have a clearance certificate, and a clearance is valid for up to 90 days.

A householder who directly retains a contractor for exempt home renovation work does not have to obtain a clearance certificate, but you can run the search yourself at any point before or during the job. Whether abatement counts as exempt home renovation work is not something we can confirm, so checking the clearance is a reasonable step regardless.

A few other things worth confirming before work starts:

- Under the Consumer Protection Act, 2002, an agreement signed at your home is a direct agreement. If the total potential payment exceeds $50, it must be in writing, and you have 10 days to cancel after receiving the written copy. The 2002 Act is due to be replaced by the Consumer Protection Act, 2023, so check the current rules.
- The Construction Act generally requires a 10 per cent holdback. Get advice for your situation before releasing final payment.
- We found no company-level licence for asbestos abatement in Ontario. What exists is Type 3 training for individual workers and supervisors under O. Reg. 278/05, a Ministry of Labour inspector notice before Type 3 work begins, and WSIB registration.

For an asbestos job, before you sign, ask the contractor to confirm the Type in writing, show that workers and supervisors have completed the required training for Type 3 work if that applies, identify which disposal site has agreed to accept the waste under Ontario Regulation 347, and tell you whether a clearance air test is included in the scope.
Local contractors listed in the Ottawa Construction Network directory reply by email to requests sent through the form on this page.

Disclaimer: This guide is provided for informational purposes only by Ottawa Abatement. It does not constitute professional advice. Always consult qualified contractors and your local building authority (the City of Ottawa or your own municipality) before starting any asbestos, mould or lead paint project. Asbestos work in Ontario is governed by O. Reg. 278/05. Information is current as of November 15, 2026 and may change. Visit **ottawaabatement.com** for the latest answers.