



Employees of Jaspro Cleaning Services tackle the removal of mould from the company's head office. The company just became certified in removing asbestos, mould and lead paint.

# Brooklyn company takes on asbestos

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When Sherri Elliott's employees were doing demolition at the old Bowater Mersey plant, they kept running into asbestos. That meant they had to stop everything and call in a special team from Halifax to remove the extremely dangerous material before they could continue work.

That's when Sherri and her husband Jason, who own Jaspro Cleaning Services, realized there was no one on the South Shore of Nova Scotia who was certified in removing asbestos, lead paint, or mould.

So they decided they would be.

The company sent employees to Halifax to take an extensive course in removing and remediating asbestos, lead paint and mould.

"We decided why shouldn't Jaspro be doing all this lead, asbestos and lead paint abatement?"

Now, the company is able to provide the remediation services required without

Abruptly stopping work - and they've also opened up new markets for their company.

"There was absolutely nobody on the Western Shore that will do asbestos removal," she says.

She says the old Bowater Plant has been a kind of training ground for the staff to gain experience in removing asbestos.

"They are a very hazardous material, they have to be removed there's regulations from the Occupational Health and Safety Act to federal government standards," she says.

"Asbestos in particular is mostly respiratory. Asbestos can get down in your lungs and cause many different issues, including cancer."

She says mould is also becoming an increasing problem, especially with the

harsh winter that Nova Scotia had this year.

"Mostly this year with all the roof leaks. People don't realize that a little roof leak goes down into your insulation and into your walls and nobody knows, behind walls, what's growing."

She says there's quite a bit of mould removal that will be required over the next few months, because mould can cause a lot of health problems.

Elliott says most homeowners don't realize that if water gets into walls, mould will grow within 24 to 48 hours, especially in damp insulation.

Lead paint is also quite common in households, she says.

"If left untouched you're okay with lead paint, but once you break through and you disturb that lead paint, you're going to run into health problems with that."

Elliott's employees are trained in removing and disposing of asbestos and lead paint.

"A lot of people have asbestos in their home that they're not aware of," she says. "There's going to be a big demand for asbestos removal, and there is right now, but you had to go to a company in the city."

Employees dealing with the hazardous materials must wear a special Hazmat suit, face masks, gloves, and footwear. The area must be protected with plastic, and workers can't leave the site until they've removed their gear and showered.

"My biggest goal is safety so that the boys are not only protecting the people but they're also doing it in a safe manner so that they protect themselves as well."

Elliott says her employees are fully certified with the Nova Scotia Construction Safety Association and the Workers Compensation Board.

They are already offering asbestos and lead paint removal. They expect to start offering mould removal on June 1st.