

Hiring an Environmental Consultant

Environmental consultants are experts who can identify what needs to be done to fix your home. Your insurance company might ask you to work with a consultant before hiring a restoration contractor or doing the work yourself.

How to Find a Consultant

- Search online for “Environmental Consultants”, “Asbestos Abatement & Removal” or “Engineers-Environmental”.
- Contact professional associations like the Canadian Registration Board of Occupational Hygienists, the American Industrial Hygiene Association, and the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta (APEGA) for lists of members who provide consultant services.

Evaluating Consultant Qualifications

When choosing a consultant, look for:

- Work experience and education in occupational hygiene or mechanical engineering.
- Training and certificates that show they know how to assess hazards and deal with them. Certificates should indicate the consultant’s name, course name and renewal date.
- Membership in professional associations, such as:
 - Canadian Registration Board of Occupational Hygienists as a Registered Occupational Hygienist (ROH) or Registered Occupational Hygiene Technologist (ROHT) (<http://www.crboh.ca>)
 - American Board of Industrial Hygiene (specify area of certification) Full or Associate membership status in industrial hygiene or occupational and environmental health and safety (<http://www.aiha.org>)
 - American Academy of Environmental Engineers in the Industrial Hygiene specialty (<http://www.aaee.net/>)
 - Designated as a P.Eng. and a Professional Licensee or Corporate Permit to Practice in the required specialty area (e.g., electrical, civil) issued by The Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta (APEGA) (<http://www.apega.ca/>)
 - Board of Certified Safety Professionals (BCSP) as a Construction Health and Safety Technician (CHST) or Occupational Health and Safety Technologist (OHST) (<http://www.bcsp.org/>)

Additional Considerations

- Work with your insurance company. This can help to ensure the consultant follows good business practices.
- Get a referral from your insurance company or past customers if possible.
- Be clear upfront whether you or your insurance company will pay. Get estimates in writing.
- Ensure the consultant has adequate insurance and bonding. Ask to see an insurance certificate showing public liability and property damage coverage for all workers on the job.

Defining the Work to Be Completed

Once you have found a consultant, ask them to provide a project proposal. This should include:

- **Estimated cost:** Small jobs might be charged hourly, typically with a minimum of one-half day's work plus direct expenses. Large jobs usually have a fixed price based on the work described.
- **Scope of work:** This can be a simple inspection or a full step-by-step plan to fix the problem.
- **End result:** You should get a report with recommendations. Since the consultant will not control the work of other contractors, results cannot be guaranteed, but they should give you an idea of what to expect.

Contact us at 1-833-476-4743 or [submit a request online](#) at ahs.ca/eph.

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