



NY Rising Housing Recovery Programs

Understanding Environmental Testing

June 23, 2014

As part of the NY Rising Housing Recovery Program (the “Program”) you are required to comply with Federal and State regulations regarding environmental testing of your damaged property. This testing can comprise two distinct types of tests: risk assessments and clearances. If you have not yet started work you should contact your Customer Representative to schedule an asbestos survey, radon assessment and lead paint risk assessment. Once work has been completed you will be contacted to have environmental clearance testing performed.

There are several types of tests which may be required for your home:

- **Asbestos Survey:** This test determines if any of the areas where work will be performed have asbestos containing material. This material poses a health risk when the material is disturbed by construction activities. It is impossible to determine if material contains asbestos without sending samples to a lab, so the inspector will take small samples of suspect materials in order to determine if they contain asbestos. The Program **will pay** for the required mitigation work if any materials are discovered.
- **Asbestos Clearance:** After work is performed an inspector will perform a visual, non-destructive evaluation of your dwelling. If there are suspected materials which are damaged then it may be necessary to take small samples to determine if a risk exists. If a risk is discovered the Program **will pay** to remedy the problem.
- **Lead Based Paint Risk Assessment:** This test determines if a lead hazard exists in the home, or if deteriorated paint exists anywhere in the dwelling, through inspection and sampling. The Program **will pay** for the required mitigation or lead safe work practices required to deal with any discovered risks.
- **Lead Based Paint Clearance:** After work is performed the dwelling will be tested for lead dust or residue by the use of test wipes. If lead is detected you will be given instructions on how to clean the areas, and a re-test will be required to verify clearance. If you use a contractor the Program **will pay** for the additional costs.
- **Radon Assessment:** Homes in the following Counties need to be assessed for radon: Albany, Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Columbia, Delaware, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Otsego, Putnam, Rensselaer, Schoharie, Sullivan, Tioga, Ulster, Washington, Oneida, Montgomery, Saratoga and Schenectady. Air monitoring canisters will be set up in your dwelling. If radon is discovered a second assessment will be performed. If it is determined that a radon hazard exists, the Program **will pay** for a radon mitigation system to be installed.

In all cases you will be informed of the existence of lead, asbestos, or radon in your dwelling. Your design professional can assist you with developing a mitigation work plan. Asbestos and radon design and remediation activities are regulated by NYS and require appropriate certification. You have the option of scheduling environmental inspections through the NY Rising Housing Program, or hiring your own testing contractor. If you hire your own contractor these costs are reimbursable by the Program, so long as you submit the results of the testing to the Program and the testing meets Program requirements.

Lead based paint testing is not required if your home was constructed on or after January 1, 1978.

For all applicants, even those who are reimbursement only, you must perform all clearance testing required by the Program. **Failure to comply with these clearance testing requirements can result in the loss of your award funds.**