OTTAWA SIDING CONTRACTORS

Old Siding, Asbestos & Disposal

Asbestos and lead paint in older siding, testing before removal, and where old siding goes in Ottawa

4 Expert Answers from Siding IQ

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Q1

Dust from old siding removal in Orleans, safety steps?

Before any siding removal on a house built before 1990, have the material tested for asbestos by a qualified professional.

Health Canada lists exterior siding among the building materials where asbestos was found before 1990, and that you should hire a qualified asbestos removal specialist if asbestos is found, rather than disturbing the material yourself. For lead, Health Canada says a home built before 1960 probably contains lead-based paint, and that between 1960 and 1990 the exterior may also contain lead-based paint. Heat guns, sanders and blowlamps should not be used to remove paint on older homes.

Ontario's asbestos regulation (O. Reg. 278/05) covers repair, alteration or maintenance of a building and applies to employers and workers on that work. Contractors' workers are covered by that regulation. Health Canada's advice is to test before work begins. The Occupational Health and Safety Act does not apply to work done by the owner or occupant on their own private residence.

From the homeowner's side, there are a few things worth doing before the crew arrives:

- Note the age of the house and tell the contractor; it matters for testing before a single panel comes off.
- Ask the contractor in writing what steps they take if suspect material is found mid-job, and whether they stop work until testing is done.
- Ask whether the quote includes disposal of the old siding, and what it covers, because the City of Ottawa's Trail Road Waste Facility does not accept asbestos and does not accept commercial loads; residential construction material from a homeowner is accepted at $172.70 per tonne (minimum $43.20 for loads under 250 kg), and source-separated scrap metal is free, though whether old siding qualifies as scrap metal is a question for the City.
- Ask whether the crew's Working at Heights training is current; under O. Reg. 297/13 that duty sits with the employer, and the training is valid for three years.
- You can ask the contractor for a WSIB clearance certificate, which is valid for up to 90 calendar days.

Q2

Who handles old siding waste after an Ottawa re-side?

Ask how disposal is handled on a re-side; the cost falls on whoever the contract says it does.

In Ottawa, the City's Trail Road Waste Facility accepts residential construction material brought by the homeowner at $172.70 per tonne, with a minimum charge of $43.20 for loads under 250 kg. Source-separated scrap metal is accepted free of charge at Trail Road, and whether old aluminum or steel siding qualifies as source-separated scrap metal is a question worth putting to the City before the job starts. Trail Road does not accept asbestos-containing material, and we found no Ottawa location that does; removal and disposal of asbestos siding is a separate specialist job.

Trail Road does not accept commercial garbage, so ask your contractor where the old siding will go. Whether the contractor's disposal cost is included in the per-square-foot price, added as a line item, or left out entirely varies by quote. Ask before you sign.

On age: Health Canada says a home built before 1960 probably contains lead-based paint, and before 1990 asbestos was found in a range of building materials including exterior siding. Ontario's asbestos regulation (O. Reg. 278/05) covers employers and workers on repair, alteration or maintenance of a building, and Health Canada advises having a professional test for asbestos before work begins rather than disturbing the material yourself. Do not sand or scrape painted surfaces on a house built before 1990 before testing.

A few things worth confirming with any contractor before the job starts:

- whether disposal is included in the quoted price or billed separately
- what happens if asbestos or lead is found once the old siding comes off
- who arranges specialist removal if it is needed, and who pays for it
- whether the quote covers the full wall area or only the siding panels, leaving trim and corner pieces as extras

Read the disposal clause in each quote closely, or notice if there isn't one.

Q3

Lead paint dust from scraping siding in Old Ottawa South?

Do not scrape or sand painted siding on a house built before 1990 until the paint has been tested for lead.

Health Canada says a home built before 1960 probably contains lead-based paint, and a home built between 1960 and 1990 may have lead-based paint on the exterior. Health Canada specifically advises against using sanders, heat guns or blowlamps to remove paint in older homes.

If you are planning to re-side and the old siding or paint layers need to be disturbed, the right order is: test first, then decide how to proceed based on the results. The Occupational Health and Safety Act does not apply to work an

owner does on their own private residence.

A few things worth knowing before you hire anyone for this work:

- Ask whether the contractor has experience with pre-1990 houses and what precautions the crew takes when old paint is present.
- Ask what the quote includes for containment, cleanup and disposal of painted debris. The City of Ottawa's Trail Waste Facility accepts residential construction material from homeowners at $172.70 per tonne (minimum $43.20 for loads under 250 kg), but Trail does not accept asbestos-containing material, and painted siding disposal should be confirmed with the facility.

Have the paint tested before any scraping, sanding or removal begins, and if lead is found, ask each contractor how they will handle that part of the job.

If you are ready to get quotes from local siding contractors, the request form on this site puts your project in front of Ottawa contractors listed in the Ottawa Construction Network directory.

Q4

Can old siding from my Ottawa re-side go to the Trail Road landfill?

Residential construction material from a homeowner's own re-side can go to the City of Ottawa's Trail Road Waste Facility, at a tipping fee of $172.70 per tonne, with a minimum charge of $43.20 for loads under 250 kg. Landfill fees there are exempt from HST.

A few things to know before you load the truck:

Trail Road does not accept asbestos-containing material. If your house was built before 1990, Health Canada lists exterior siding among the building materials where asbestos was found before 1990. Ontario's asbestos regulation (O. Reg. 278/05) requires that before repair, alteration or maintenance work begins, an examination for asbestos-containing material likely to be disturbed must be carried out. Contractors' workers are covered by that regulation. Health Canada advises having the material tested before anyone disturbs it, and if asbestos is found, hiring a qualified asbestos removal specialist. Trail Road has no listed asbestos drop-off, and we found no Ottawa location for asbestos-cement siding disposal: ask the City before arranging disposal if there is any doubt about the material.

Trail Road also does not accept commercial garbage, so ask your contractor where the old siding will go and whether disposal is in the quote.

Trail Road takes source-separated scrap metal free of charge; whether old aluminum or steel siding counts is a question to ask the City.

A few practical points to raise with whoever you hire:

- Ask what the quote includes for disposal: whether the contractor is hauling it, whether you are, and who pays the tipping fee.
- If the house is pre-1990, ask whether the old siding has been tested for asbestos before any removal begins.
- Ask whether any of the material qualifies as scrap metal and can be separated out.

Confirm with the City before the drop-off.

Disclaimer: This guide is provided for informational purposes only by Ottawa Siding Contractors. 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 siding project, and have old siding on a house built before 1990 tested before it is disturbed. Siding work in Ontario must meet the 2024 Ontario Building Code (O. Reg. 163/24). Information is current as of November 15, 2026 and may change. Visit **ottawasidingcontractors.ca** for the latest answers.