

Queen Anne Paint Chip Clean-up - Frequently Asked Questions

What happened?

On Wednesday, February 14, 2018, Region 10's Emergency Management Program learned of a potential release of lead-based paint from the KIRO News telecommunications tower in a densely populated neighborhood in Seattle, WA. EPA received several complaints from neighbors surrounding the tower, which was undergoing repair and maintenance work, and documented a significant amount of what appeared to be pieces of paint on private and public property, including sidewalks, and streets. EPA initiated response actions on February 15, including EPA's oversight of removal of the contaminated materials.

Since that time, EPA has overseen testing and any necessary clean-up of the affected properties.

Who do I give the signed access agreements to?

Representatives from InSite Wireless Group or Ramboll (InSite's primary contractor) will pick up the signed access agreement from your property if desired. Otherwise, you can email your agreement to Katherine Mackinnon, a consultant working on behalf of InSite Wireless Group, at Katherine.Mackinnon@nyhus.com. She will ensure your agreement is appropriately tracked by both the EPA and the InSite team.

Ramboll will contact you within one working day of receiving your signed access agreement to schedule a site assessment.

What happens after I send in my signed access agreement?

There are three major steps to clean-up for each individual property:

1. Assessing your site;
2. Developing an approved property-specific work plan;
3. Scheduling and actual clean-up of your property.

Returning your access agreement form as quickly as possible is the first step.

Within one day of receiving your signed access agreement, Ramboll will contact you to schedule a site assessment.

The site assessment team will identify any locations and chips on your property, home and/or building. Within four days of the site assessment, a representative from Ramboll will deliver the EPA-approved, property-specific work plan detailing the approach for your property. Once you approve, sign, and return the work plan to Ramboll, clean-up work can be scheduled and can be expected to begin within five days.

To return your signed work plan to Ramboll, please call Mike Arnold at (206) 397-5304.

What should I expect during the inspections/assessments and cleanup?

The assessment team is made up of people from InSite Wireless, Ramboll (InSite's primary contractor), and EPA. They'll explain the process to you, and then they'll want to walk your property with you, so that you can point out any areas of special sensitivity, and ask questions about how the cleanup might be done if paint chips are found in any particular area. After that the team will carefully assess the exterior of your home, your gardens, lawns, and landscape. They'll map the location and amounts of the paint chips they find.

The clean-up specialists at Ramboll will then develop a site-specific work plan for your property and submit it to the EPA for approval. After EPA's approval, they'll give the work plan to you for your review and approval. You can also add questions or comments to the work plan – the work plan is the cleanup guide, but you are not "locked in" to it. If you have questions or concerns during the work be sure to let the on-site crew know. You can also call Mike Arnold, project manager at Ramboll, at 206-397-5304.

Currently, clean-up is expected to begin on your property within five days of receiving your approval of the work plan. A Ramboll representative will contact you to confirm the clean-up schedule.

A post-cleanup walkthrough will be completed by Ramboll and may include EPA and InSite representatives. The EPA team will have been involved in the removal efforts at each property, and will have approved the property to be inspected by the owner.

How long is it taking to get the work plans to residents?

Depending on the size of your property, work plans will be developed by clean-up specialists, reviewed and finalized by EPA, and should be delivered to you for your review and approval within four days of the property assessment.

Who is the person who answers technical questions about the inspections, workplans, and cleanup process?

Mike Arnold, project manager and principal at Ramboll, is available to answer your technical questions.

Contact Mike at: marnold@ramboll.com (206) 397-5304

Who is emailing the work plans to residents?

Clean-up specialists from Ramboll will email the work plans to residents that have provided InSite their email addresses. Kay Morrison at the EPA will email PDF versions of the work plans to the property owners who have not provided InSite with their email addresses.

What if I find paint chips after my property paint chip removal action is complete?

Contact Kay Morrison at the EPA. We will coordinate with the Ramboll and InSite teams to develop and mobilize a response to address the found paint chips.

Contact Kay at: morrison.kay@epa.gov, or (206) 553-8321.