

Wellington Guelph Hoarding Network (WGHN)

HOMES[®] Multi-disciplinary Hoarding Risk Assessment

The Wellington Guelph Hoarding Network has adapted the *HOMES Multidisciplinary Hoarding Risk Assessment* to be used across the network by any service provider trying to identify the risks for safety and health in the home.

About the WGHN

The network is comprised of over 20 community agencies working together to improve the response to hoarding in the community. For more information about the network, please visit our website at www.wghoardingresponse.ca or email at info@wghoardingresponse.ca

Purpose of the assessment

- to provide a non-clinical tool that can be used by any community agency in Guelph Wellington to better assess hoarding situations.
- to develop shared language across community agencies on the key safety and health risks related to hoarding.
- to be used in conjunction with the multidisciplinary team when cases are presented.

How to fill the assessment out

The assessment can be filled out with or without the client. The check box next to each identified risk is checked if present in the home.

If you are unable to access the home

Sometimes it is difficult to access the home, but there are still concerns related to health and safety. There is a box in the bottom left hand column that the user can check to indicate that access to the home was difficult. This may mean concerns may not be comprehensive.

How to interpret the information

Once the assessment is filled in, you can have a numerical output for specific safety issues in the home (Premises Severity) and concerning issues for that individual (Protection Issues). The higher the score in both premises severity and protection issues, the higher the risk and safety concerns. You can monitor a home over time by comparing the numerical calculation between different assessment dates.

Premises severity (H+O+S) = _____

Protection issues (M+E) = _____

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Health

- Can't access or use toilet
- Can't use shower
- Pests
- Can't prepare food
- Spoiled food
- Can't sleep in bed
- Urine/feces
- Garbage overflow
- Mold/chronic dampness
- Can't locate medications or equipment
- Can't use stove/fridge/sink

Notes: _____

Obstacles

- Safe movement inhibited
- Unstable piles/avalanche risk
- Blocked egress/vents
- EMT unable to enter/gain access

Notes: _____

Mental Health (Risk factors)

- Lacks insight re: problem severity
- Defensive/angry
- Confused
- Anxious/fearful
- Lacks insight regarding consequences
- Low mood/sadness

Notes: _____

Endangerment (Health and safety)

- Child/minor
- Disabled person
- Older adult
- Animals

Notes: _____

Structure & Safety

- Unstable floorboards/stairs/porch
- Leaking roof
- Electrical wires/cords exposed
- Caving walls
- No running water/plumbing problems
- No heat/electricity
- Flammable items near heat source
- No working smoke alarms
- Blocked/unsafe electric heater or vents
- No CO2 detectors
- Storage of hazardous materials/weapons

Notes: _____

- Unable to access the home for a complete assessment

Date: _____ Client Name: _____ Assessor: _____ Agency: _____

Adapted from: Bratiotis, Schmalisch & Steketee. 2011. The Hoarding Handbook: A Guide for Human Service Professionals. New York: Oxford University Press

Household Composition

- # and age of adults _____
- # and age of children _____
- # and kinds of pets _____
- In home smoking Yes No
- Person(s) with physical disability Yes No
- Language(s) spoken in home _____

Risk Measurements

- Imminent harm to self, family, animals, public: _____
- Threat of Eviction
- Do Not Occupy order has been issued

Motivation For Change (Client strengths and capacity)

- Awareness of clutter
- Acknowledges risks to health/safety/housing stability/impact on daily life
- Physical ability to clear clutter
- Psychological ability to tolerate intervention
- Willingness to accept intervention assistance

Support Network

- No informal support
- Limited formal support
- Informal support network present: _____

- Verbal Consent to contact informal support
- Community Agency Involvement: _____

Post-Assessment Plan/Referral

Premises severity (H+O+S) = _____

Protection issues (M+E) = _____

(The higher the score indicates higher risk and safety concerns)