

THE WALK-AWAY SHEET

When you stop, when you defer, when it isn't a dense-pack job · Colorado Springs Utilities · July 2026



STOP AND CALL — mid-job, right now

Vermiculite appears — pebbly gray-brown fill. Assume asbestos; don't disturb or vacuum.

Knob-and-tube — in the bay, attic, or basement: assume the walls. New outlets prove nothing.

The hole pulls air — or the probe drops past the bottom plate: live return or open chase.

You've touched a pipe — cast iron is loud; plastic holes silently. Assess before one more bag.

Insulation appears anywhere unexpected — MATERIAL off first, then air. Find the path.

Water or wet material on the probe — the wall is disqualified today, full stop.

SUPERVISOR / ABATEMENT

LICENSED ELECTRICIAN

VERIFY FIRST

PLUMBER IF BREACHED

SPOTTER + CREW LEAD

SEE DEFER LIST

DEFER — pack it later, after the fix

Bulk water — gutters, grade, flashing, roof or window leaks; stains, musty odor. Fix + dry.

Wood at ~20% MC or higher — decay territory. Dry it, re-check, then fiber.

Plaster fails the push test — flex or grid cracking: keys are gone; pressure wins.

Weak interior surfaces — thin '70s paneling, cracked plaster, loose drywall.

Panned or cavity return — that bay stays empty until a real duct goes in.

K&T awaiting certification — written dead-or-removed letter, then blow.

Vermiculite in attic or walls — home defers until licensed abatement is documented.

Asbestos siding access — ~16 broken shingles = the 32-SF trigger. Go interior.

ROOFER / GC

MOISTURE METER RULES

PLASTERER / WASHERS

REPAIR + FASTEN FIRST

HVAC CONTRACTOR

ELECTRICIAN'S LETTER

PROGRAM + ABATEMENT

INTERIOR ROUTE

NOT A DENSE-PACK CANDIDATE — walk away

EIFS (synthetic stucco over foam) — face-sealed and vapor-closed; it can never dry.

Plaster direct on masonry — no framed cavity exists. Nothing to fill.

Structural double-wythe brick — usually no packable cavity; confirm before quoting.

The bay that IS a duct — supply never; returns only after conversion to a chase.

Unvented roof / cathedral pack — high-risk here; program rules and AHJ decide, not the crew.

DECLINE

DECLINE

DECLINE / CONFIRM

HVAC FIRST

PROGRAM CALL

Walking away is a professional act.

Photograph it · flag the work order · name the trade · tell the customer why.

The job you don't do wrong is the reputation you keep.