



The City of Port Colborne's Building Section maintains a list of all Port Colborne locations in which illegal marijuana grow operations and clandestine drug labs have been confirmed by the Niagara Regional Police and inspected by the Building Section. Once the Building Section is made aware of the location of these illegal operations, they are inspected and issued the appropriate Unsafe Order(s) and Prohibit Occupancy Order(s) directing the building owner to take the necessary action to render the building safe for occupancy.

Marijuana home grow operations (grow ops) and clandestine drug labs are found in all types of locations and buildings – from rural farms to typical subdivision houses – creating a multitude of health and safety concerns for future owners and inhabitants.

It is common for operations of these illegal operators to make significant structural, electrical and mechanical changes to the building to facilitate their criminal enterprise.

These changes include:

- cutting large unsupported openings in doors and walls rendering the building structurally unsafe
- illegally by-passing the hydro meter to obtain large quantities of electricity for artificial lighting
- significant alterations to the heating and ventilation system in an effort to mask the odour and generate heat

Aside from the visible damage, the hidden environmental damage is of equal concern. The significant increase in temperature and humidity within the sealed building can often lead to mould growth and contamination within a short period of time. This mould growth is not only visible on ceilings/walls and floors, but also occurs within walls.