



Re-Envisioning Enforcement: Strategies for Addressing Hoarding

Jesse Edsell-Vetter

What is Hoarding?

- √ Is there the acquisition of and failure to discard a large volume of possessions
- √ Does the clutter make it difficult to use rooms for their intended purpose?
- √ Is there distress or impairment in functioning caused by the clutter?



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What is Squalor?

- Squalor is defined as filthiness or degradation from neglect
- Examples of squalor include: rotting food, infestation, human or animal waste
- Hoarding is typically characterized as a cluttered living environment; clutter may exist with or without poor sanitation



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Exercise: Distinguishing Between Hoarding and Squalor

For each photo, using the definitions provided for hoarding and squalor, determine which of the following best describes what you observe:

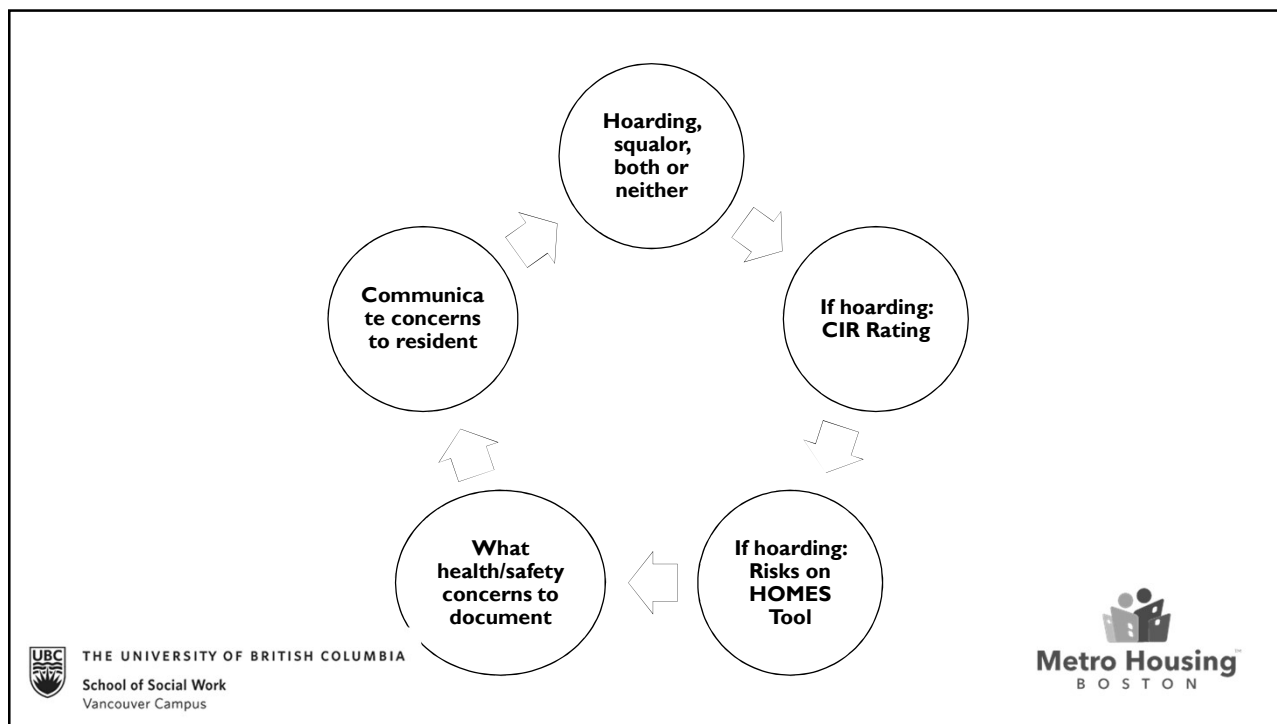
- A. Hoarding only
- B. Squalor only
- C. Both hoarding and squalor
- D. Neither
- E. I am not sure



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Assessment Tools

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Assessment Tools

- Clutter Image Rating Scale
- HOMES Multi-Disciplinary Risk Assessment
- Inspection report (or notes from home visit)
- Hoarding Interview



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HOMES Multi-disciplinary Risk Assessment

Instructions for Use

HOMES Multi-disciplinary Hoarding Risk Assessment provides a structural measure through which the level of risk in a hoarded environment can be conceptualized.

It is intended as an *initial and brief* assessment to aid in determining the nature and parameters of the hoarding problem and organizing a plan from which further action may be taken-- including immediate intervention, additional assessment or referral.

HOMES can be used in a variety of ways, depending on needs and resources. It is recommended that a visual scan of the environment in combination with a conversation with the person(s) in the home be used to determine the effect of clutter/hoarding on **Health, Obstacles, Mental Health, Endangerment and Structure** in the setting.

The Family Composition, Imminent Risk, Capacity, Notes and Post-Assessment sections are intended for additional information about the hoarded environment, the occupants and their capacity/strength to address the problem.

Bratiotis, 2009

Inspections Report

All citations should be:

- Clear and specific
- Measurable
- Concrete

Barriers to compliance:

- Reports written with legal/code language
- Short-hand reporting (“clear clutter”)
- Reports recommending “organizing items”
- Judgmental language (“remove junk”)



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Hoarding Interview Questions

Tell me about your _____ (tea pots, games, books, etc.)

Are there ways that you would like to be able to do in your home that are difficult now?

I wonder if there was a time when you felt that you successfully organized your home?

Have others in your life commented on your clutter before?

It seems that there are some health/safety concerns being expressed by your housing provider. What are your thoughts about those concerns?

Are there ways that the clutter prevents you from doing things that are important to you?

Has anyone offered to help you address your clutter before?



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Assessment Practice



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Talking About Safety Issues



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Communicating Safety Concerns

- Focus on FACTS
- Be specific and concrete
- Deliver information verbally and in writing
- Talk with the resident and service providers about setting priorities for bringing the unit into compliance
- The manner in which information about code violations is delivered can be just as important as providing a “to-do” list



Using A Tiered Approach

Tier 1:
Emergencies

Tier 2: Must Do
Items

Tier 3:
Recommendations



