

Hoarding is a complex disorder made up of three connected problems:

- Collecting too many items
- Difficulty getting rid of items
- Problems with organization

### SO WHY IS HOARDING AN ISSUE?

- Hoarding can severely limit the use of living spaces
- It can result in hazardous conditions for the individual who hoards and his or her neighbors
- It can result in significant distress and/or impairment in day-to-day living

Interested in scheduling a presentation in your community?

Call 216.791.8000

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information and for resources about hoarding, visit:

[www.HoardingConnectionCC.org](http://www.HoardingConnectionCC.org)

#### Or contact:

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# HOARDING CONNECTION OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY



## HOARDING IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS

[www.HoardingConnectionCC.org](http://www.HoardingConnectionCC.org)

## OUR MISSION

*The mission of the Hoarding Connection of Cuyahoga County is to provide support and advice, educate, develop best practices, and assist in identifying needed resources for individuals who hoard and those who work with individuals who hoard.*

## POSSIBLE SIGNS OF HOARDING BEHAVIOR

- Malodorous/dirty individual or clothing.
- Blinds closed/shades drawn at residence all the time.
- House appears closed off. Do not observe people coming and going much.
- Unusual resistance to use of home-based services.
- Long-term neglect of home maintenance.
- Excessive collection and storage of items in the residence, yard, automobile, etc.
- Malodorous smell emanating from the residence.
- Utility shut-offs.

## WHAT IS HOARDING?

- The acquisition of and the failure to discard an extreme number of possessions that appear to be useless or of limited value to people other than the person who hoards.
- A mental illness that may cause significant distress or impairment as a result of the hoarding behavior.
- Living or work spaces sufficiently cluttered so as to preclude activities for which those spaces were designed.
- Can result in hazardous conditions for the person who hoards and his or her neighbors



## People who hoard are not likely to ask for help.



Hoarding is usually discovered because:

- An emergency first-responder enters the premises to deal with an emergency and discovers the situation.
- A utility company enters the premises to deal with a problem or read the meter.
- A family member or neighbor refers for services for the person who is hoarding.
- The person becomes ill and requires home-based services.
- The person needs to move or “down-size.”
- The person is involved in eviction proceedings.

*The Hoarding Connection of Cuyahoga County brings together individuals and organizations from throughout the community who encounter in their work people who hoard. The coalition was developed to raise awareness and to provide best-practice tools for communities to use when faced with a hoarding situation. The Hoarding Connection does not provide direct services.*