



## Asbestos Samplings

Anyone who samples asbestos-containing materials should have as much information as possible on the handling of asbestos before sampling. All sampling must comply with all EPA, OSHA, state and local regulations dealing with asbestos sampling. At a minimum, observe the following procedures:

- Make sure no one else is in the room when sampling is performed.
- Wear disposable gloves or wash hands after sampling.
- Shut down any heating or cooling systems to minimize the spread of any released fibers.
- Do not disturb the material any more than is needed to take a small sample. Sample size should be a minimum of 1" x 2".
- Place a plastic sheet on the floor around the area to be sampled.
- Completely wet the sample location using a spray bottle with a soap and water solution (one teaspoon of soap per quart of water). The sample location should be kept wet throughout the sampling procedure to prevent the release of airborne fibers.
- Carefully cut a piece from the entire depth of the material using a sharp instrument (for example, a small knife, chisel, etc.). Place the sample into a clean container (for example, a 35 mm film canister, small glass or plastic vial, or high quality re-sealable plastic bag).
- Tightly seal the container.
- Label the container with an identification number and clearly state when and where the sample was taken.
- Make sure that the top of the sample containers are taped so they will not open in transit.
- Carefully dispose of the plastic sheet. Use a damp paper towel or wet-wipes to clean up any material on the outside of the container or around the area sampled. Dispose of asbestos materials according to state and local procedures.
- Patch the sampled area with the smallest possible piece of duct tape to prevent fiber release.
- Clean the sampling tools immediately after taking each sample. Discard the used paper towels or wet-wipes in a gallon-size sealable bag that has been labeled for suspect asbestos containing waste. Wet-wipe the outside of the sealable bag. Do not re-use the paper towels or wet wipes.
- If no more samples are to be taken in the area where you have spread the drop cloth, inspect it for visible dust or debris. Mist the drop cloth with soapy water and wet-wipe the area. Carefully fold the sides and corners of the drop cloth to the center with the top side in and place it in a gallon-size sealable bag.
- When all samples have been taken in all sampling areas, place the gallon-size sealable bags containing the paper towels, wet-wipes, drop cloth, and other debris into a labeled disposal bag.
- Completely fill out the information form.

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