

Sample Collection Guide

Sampling of suspect asbestos containing products

Guidance Note GN-02 – August 2019

Hazard	Source	Control
Airborne asbestos fibres	Asbestos Sampling	Use of water spray/PVA/encapsulant, PPE, segregate work from others, clean-up, and decontamination.
Manual Handling	Sharps/tool injury	Assess task and plan task to reduce manual handling injury, wear PPE as required.

PERSONAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT (minimum)



EQUIPMENT REQUIRED:

1. P2 particulate filter mask.
2. Disposable nitrile gloves (minimum).
3. Safety glasses.
4. Disposable suit, type 5/6 (where applicable)
5. Hand tools.
6. Wet wipes.
7. Water spray bottle and water.
8. Plastic 200 micron drop sheet
9. Detergent / PVA glue surfactant.
10. Zip-lock sample bags.
11. Adhesive/sealer e.g. silicon sealant, PVA glue, paint or similar encapsulant
12. Asbestos waste bags and duct tape.

SAMPLING OF SUSPECT ASBESTOS CONTAINING PRODUCT:

Preparation

- ✓ Ensure unprotected persons are remote from sampling work.
- ✓ Lay down a plastic drop sheet to catch any loose material that may fall off while sampling.
- ✓ Shut down any heating, cooling, or fan systems to minimise the spread of any released fibres.
- ✓ Do not disturb the material any more than is needed to take a small sample. Check to determine if the sample can be collected from an exposed or already damaged areas. This may occur at ends, joints, penetration, or at base of products where access may allow.
- ✓ Prior to sampling, spray area with mixture of water and PVA (or mix of water and small amount of detergent).



Sample taking

- ✓ Don PPE - P2 mask, gloves and protective glasses, as required. A disposable suit must be used where there is possibility of contamination of clothes, for example (but, not limited, when sampling friable materials or sampling overhead).
- ✓ Using hand tools appropriate to the job, with light pressure, slowly release asbestos product until an adequate sample has been taken.
- ✓ Remove adequate amount of suspect asbestos product applying spray mixture at same time - approximate size of sample required is size of 10-20 cent piece.
- ✓ When sufficient sample is acquired place into zip-lock bag and seal, then double bag with clean zip-lock bag and seal within.
- ✓ Apply adhesive, use similar sealant, paint, or cover with duct tape remaining penetration or exposed edge where the sample was taken.

Clean up

- ✓ Wipe area around penetration/area with wet wipe and place into separate and larger asbestos disposal bag for future disposal. Ensure no possible cross contamination in the vicinity of the sample point. Using wet wipes clean all used hand tools.
- ✓ Use sprayer to mist air and assist with clean-up activity and wiping. Dispose of any cleaning media, wipes and carefully fold up drop sheet plastic into larger asbestos disposal bag as well.
- ✓ Follow personal de-contamination procedure including washing/wet wiping hands once gloved are disposed of, removing respiratory protection absolutely last. I.e. Only remove your respirator once the entire clean-up process has been completed, bags are sealed up and you are safely clean.
- ✓ Dispose of asbestos waste material as per local EPA requirements. Ensure waste is double bagged and sealed in 200 micron asbestos disposal bags with adhesive duct tape.
- ✓ Record location, item, date, and unique identifying number on outside of sample zip-lock bag. Photograph sample location and marked up sample bag.
- ✓ Deliver double sealed sample bags to laboratory for analysis.

Disclaimer:

This is a guide only and is in no way a substitution, replacement, or direction in lieu of your own safe work procedures and on-site training/supervision. Sampling techniques may vary according to the location, type, and condition of the asbestos containing material being sampled. PCBU's are responsible for ensuring safe procedures relevant to the situation and specific risk identified for that site. All work should be carried out in accordance with the approved Asbestos Codes of Practice requirements, relevant to your own jurisdiction.