



SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS: Asbestos, a human carcinogen, should be handled only in an exhaust hood (equipped with a HEPA filter). Precautions should be taken when collecting unknown samples, which may be asbestos, to preclude exposure to the person collecting the sample and minimize the disruption to the parent material. Disposal of asbestos-containing materials should follow governmental guidelines

Permissible concentration (PC) for all types of Asbestos is 8-hour limit0.1 fibres/ml

Presume a Material is Asbestos Instead of Testing

If material on the EPA's [Sample List of Suspect Asbestos-Containing Materials](#) was manufactured with asbestos in the past, it is best to assume that it contains asbestos, unless testing; the date of manufacture, the label, or the manufacturer verifies that it does not. A material may be presumed to be asbestos and treated as though it contained asbestos without being tested or surveyed.

IF UNSURE HIRE A PROFESSIONAL TO DO THE SAMPLING

The following guidance is from the Environmental Protection Agency booklet, [Asbestos in Your Home](#), website address for the booklet is <http://www.epa.gov/iedweb00/pubs/asbestos.html>

Before taking an asbestos sample, call the laboratory that will run the test for advice about the sampling procedure, the amount needed and the container to use.

"You can't tell whether a material contains asbestos simply by looking at it, unless it is labeled. If in doubt, treat the material as if it contains asbestos or have it sampled and analyzed by a qualified professional. A professional should take samples for analysis, since a professional knows what to look for, and because there may be an increased health risk if fibers are released. In fact, if done incorrectly, sampling can be more hazardous than leaving the material alone. Taking samples yourself is not recommended. If you nevertheless choose to take the samples yourself, take care not to release asbestos fibers into the air or onto yourself. Material that is in good condition and will not be disturbed (by remodeling, for example) should be left alone. Only material that is damaged or will be disturbed should be sampled. Anyone who samples asbestos-containing materials should have as much information as possible on the handling of asbestos before sampling, and at a minimum, should observe the following procedures:

- Make sure no one else is in the room when sampling is done.
- Advise wearing a respirator effective against asbestos during sample collection, you can purchase a NIOSH approved P100 respirator from most hardware stores or safety houses **This respirator should not be used for major disturbances of suspect material that would be encountered during renovations or for removal of Asbestos Containing Material**
- 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.
- Place a plastic sheet on the floor below the area to be sampled.
- Wet the material using a fine mist of water containing a few drops of detergent before taking the sample. The water/detergent mist will reduce the release of asbestos fibers.
- Carefully cut a piece from the entire depth of the material using, for example, a small knife, corer, or other sharp object. Place the small piece 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 after the sample is in it.
- Carefully dispose of the plastic sheet. Use a damp paper towel 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.
- Label the container with an identification number and clearly state when and where the sample was taken.
- Patch the sampled area with the smallest possible piece of duct tape to prevent fiber release."

Collecting bulk samples of materials suspected of containing asbestos:

See additional information in the Workers' Compensation Board of British Columbia "Safe Work Practices for Handling Asbestos" page 43

EPA's [Sample List of Suspect Asbestos-Containing Materials](#)

Asbestos Containing Materials

Note: The following list does not include every product/material that may contain asbestos. It is intended as a general guide to show which types of materials may contain asbestos.

Sample List of Suspect Asbestos - Containing Materials

Cement Pipes	Elevator Brake Shoes
Cement Wallboard	HVAC Duct Insulation
Cement Siding	Boiler Insulation
Asphalt Floor Tile	Breaching Insulation
Vinyl Floor Tile	Ductwork Flexible Fabric Connections
Vinyl Sheet Flooring	Cooling Towers
Flooring Backing	Pipe Insulation (corrugated air-cell, block, etc.)
Construction Mastics (floor tile, carpet, ceiling tile, etc.)	Heating and Electrical Ducts
Acoustical Plaster	Electrical Panel Partitions
Decorative Plaster	Electrical Cloth
Textured Paints/Coatings	Electric Wiring Insulation
Ceiling Tiles and Lay-in Panels	Chalkboards
Spray-Applied Insulation	Roofing Shingles
Blown-in Insulation	Roofing Felt
Fireproofing Materials	Base Flashing
Taping Compounds (thermal)	Thermal Paper Products
Packing Materials (for wall/floor penetrations)	Fire Doors
High Temperature Gaskets	Caulking/Putties
Laboratory Hoods/Table Tops	Adhesives
Laboratory Gloves	Wallboard
Fire Blankets	Joint Compounds
Fire Curtains	Vinyl Wall Coverings
Elevator Equipment Panels	Spackling Compounds

For additional information refer to:

**The Workers' Compensation Board of British Columbia web site www.worksafebc.com
[Guidelines Part 6 Contents Asbestos and Part 6 Substance Specific Requirements Asbestos]**

The Government of British Columbia's' Environmental Protection Division site on *Management of Waste Asbestos by Home Owners in BC* <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/epdpa/sw/disas.html>