

# A GUIDE TO SAMPLING ASBESTOS CONTAINING MATERIAL

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## HAZCON's Asbestos Services:

- Asbestos Identification & Sampling
- Asbestos Audits (Division 5)
- Hazardous Building Material Audits (Division 6)
- Visual Clearance
- Air Monitoring
- SMF Monitoring
- Asbestos Training Courses
- Asbestos Awareness Training



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## Where is Asbestos most common?

Asbestos containing materials are common in buildings constructed or renovated between the 1950s to 1980s. WorkSafe Victoria have published a handbook on asbestos in workplaces. This gives an overview of where Asbestos Containing Materials (ACMs) are commonly located, the definition of friable and non-friable ACMs, along with the various risks associated with asbestos. This sampling guide is only recommended for ACMs which are non-friable (materials which cannot be crumbled by hand pressure). If any friable ACMs (material which can be crumbled by hand pressure) are located, these should be sampled by a hygienist experienced in managing asbestos related risks. Below is a step by step guide on sampling non-friable ACMs, including decontamination processes. This guide is based on guidance provided by the Australian Government Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency (AGASEA).

## How to prepare:

– Ensure you have correct tools and equipment for sampling.

Below is a list of what you will need:

- Pliers
- Zip-lock bag or resealable plastic bag
- Waterproof sealant / paint
- PVA water mix within hand-held spray bottle (1 part PVA to 10 parts water)
- Duct tap
- Damp rags
- Disposable coveralls
- Plastic drop sheets
- 0.2mm thick plastic waste bag
- P2 disposable respirator
- Rubber gloves – As recommended by AGASEA

– Isolate the area where the sampling is to be done to ensure no other people are nearby. This includes switching off any ventilation systems such as fans or heating and cooling systems. If the samples are taken outside, ensure they are not taken on a windy day. This is to avoid any potential spread of fibres when samples are taken.

– If the sample is to be taken using a ladder, ensure appropriate precautions are taken when working at heights.

## How to take a sample:

- Put on disposable coveralls, P2 respirator and rubber gloves. Ensure plastic drop sheet is placed below where the sample is to be taken. This is to catch any material that may fall whilst taking a sample.
- Wet the area where the sample is to be taken with a fine mist of the PVA water mix. This is to reduce any potential fibres that may be released whilst sampling.
- Carefully break away a piece of the suspected ACM using pliers. The piece needs to be approximately the size of your thumbnail and the whole thickness of the sample.
  - *In order to reduce damage to the material, a sample should be taken in an area such as a corner or edge or along an existing hole or crack. This is particularly useful when sampling cement sheeting.*
- Place the sample taken into a zip-lock bag or resealable plastic bag. Place this bag in **another** resealable plastic bag or zip-lock bag to **double bag the sample**
- Label the bag with your name and contact details, the site and location of where the sample is taken. A Chain of Custody (COC) form available from the HAZCON website [www.hazcon.com.au/services/asbestos-testing-auditing/](http://www.hazcon.com.au/services/asbestos-testing-auditing/) should also be filled out and included with the sample.
- Place the wrapped and banded zip-lock bag in 0.2mm thick plastic, and then wrap again with 0.2mm thick plastic.
- Place this wrapped sample with the Chain of Custody in a satchel post bag eg. Express Post or Parcel Post bag and send or deliver to Hazcon 8 Industrial Avenue, Notting Hill, Victoria, 3168.
- Seal the area where the sample was taken with paint or the PVA water mix.

## How to Decontaminate:

- Whilst still wearing the disposable coveralls, P2 mask and rubber gloves:
  - *Use a damp rag to wipe down the area where the sample was taken.*
  - *Carefully wrap/roll the plastic drop sheet and place into the 0.2mm thick plastic waste bag.*
  - *Wash tools used with water or wipe down with a damp rag.*
- Remove rubber gloves and disposable overalls and place into the waste bag along with the damp rags:
  - *Coveralls should be removed carefully by rolling and folding them to contain any possible fibres.*
- Once the area has been fully decontaminated and coveralls and gloves removed, the respirator can then be removed and placed in waste bag.
- Seal and place the waste bag in a second plastic waste bag
- Wash hands with soapy water following decontamination to remove any possible residue
- All asbestos waste from the sampling should be labelled and disposed of in accordance with EPA regulations.



## Follow the links for more information:



<https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/for-business/find-a-topic/asbestos>



<https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/asbestos>



<https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/safety-topic/hazards/asbestos>

HAZCON Pty Ltd  
**Sample Chain of Custody Form**
**Client Details:**

Company Name:	Client Order No:	Turn Around Times:		
Contact Name:	Phone No:	24 hours	Standard	Date:
Postal Address:	Email Address:	Comments:		
	Client ABN:	Date Sent:		

**Sample Details:**

Site Details/Address:						
Material Description and Sample Location	Sample Type			Received		Comments or Special Instructions
	Asbestos Bulk Sample	Asbestos Soil Sample	Asbestos Filter – Count	Jar	Bag	
1.						
2.						
3.						
4.						
5.						
6.						
7.						
8.						
9.						
10.						
11.						
12.						

**Office Use Only**

<b>Method of Shipment:</b>	<b>NOTTING HILL OFFICE:</b>
	Received By:
<b>HAZCON Job No:</b>	Date & Time:
	Signature:

Collected/Sampled by HAZCON:	Collected by:	Date:
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