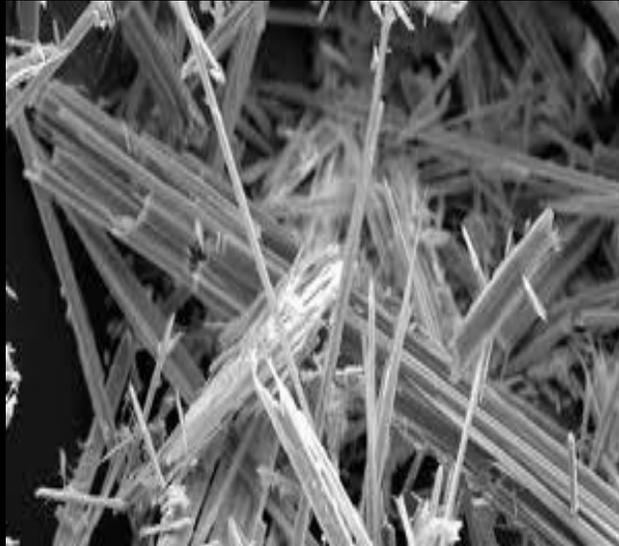




Visualise the Future



This sampling information is provided as a guide on how to safely sample materials potentially containing asbestos for analysis in an accredited testing laboratory. This information has been collated using the techniques outlined in the Code of Practice on How to Manage and Control Asbestos in the Workplace and the Code of Practice on How to Safely Remove Asbestos. Both codes can be found on the Safe Work Australia website www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au.

What is Asbestos?

Asbestos is the name given to the fibrous form of mineral silicates belonging to the serpentine and amphibole groups of rock forming minerals. Asbestos is a known carcinogen and extended exposure at high concentration may result in health problems. The three types of asbestos commonly used throughout Australia are:

Chrysotile	(White Asbestos)
Amosite	(Brown/Grey Asbestos)
Crocidolite	(Blue Asbestos)

Due to the health risks associated with asbestos inhalation, care should be taken at all times to minimize personal exposure, dust generation and contamination of surrounding areas. If at any time there is a potential for safety to be compromised, all work should cease immediately and a professional Occupational Hygienist contacted for advice and assistance.

Where is Asbestos Found?

Asbestos was popular with the manufacturers of building materials due to its resistance to fire, electrical current, heat and chemical damage. It is also extremely strong. As a result asbestos was commonly used throughout Australia in a range of products up until 1990. However asbestos was not completely banned in Australia until 2003. To date it is estimated that asbestos has been used in up to 3000 different products including household building materials such as:



Asbestos Sampling Guide

Prior to conducting any renovations or demolition works it is vital that you have an understanding of the potential hazards located within the building. Any material suspected of containing asbestos fibres should be analysed within a NATA accredited laboratory. This simple test can prevent asbestos exposure, contamination of the building and expensive decontamination costs.

- ❖ Fibro walls and ceilings;
- ❖ Super 6 corrugated roofs;
- ❖ Vinyl tiles, vinyl sheeting and laminate products;
- ❖ Insulation material
- ❖ Electrical switchboard backing (zelemite);
- ❖ Vermiculite ceiling (bubble/popcorn ceiling);
- ❖ Hessian carpet underlay

All items required for the collection of an asbestos sample can be found at your local hardware store. Where possible, it is recommended that all items used for sample collection be disposed of immediately after sampling.

Equipment Required

- ❖ P2 disposable dust mask
- ❖ Disposable latex gloves
- ❖ PVA Glue
- ❖ Asbestos waste bag
- ❖ Water spray bottle (with detergent)
- ❖ Zip lock bags
- ❖ Wet wipes
- ❖ Plastic drop sheet
- ❖ Chisel
- ❖ Hammer
- ❖ Needle nose pliers
- ❖ Duct tape
- ❖ Marker pen

Stage 2 – Sampling the Material

Bulk Samples (cement sheeting etc)

1. Lightly spray the material with a small amount of water and detergent using a spray bottle until material is damp. Keep in mind electrical cables and/or power points to avoid electrocution.
2. Sample from below head height where possible.
3. Carefully collect a small sample using needle nose pliers if there is an exposed edge to grab, otherwise a hammer and chisel can be used to dislodge a small fragment of material. Take care to minimize the amount of dust generated during this process.
4. A sample size of 20c coin is ideal, ensuring that the sample is consistent with the whole of the material and is collected through the entire depth of the material.
5. When taking multiple samples ensure sampling tools are decontaminated in between each sample using wet wipes to minimize cross contamination.

Stage 5 – Sample Analysis

1. Fill out an Octief Bulk ID Sample Submitted Form.
2. Deliver the collected sample(s) to Octief at the following address either in person or by courier.

Attention Laboratory
Octief Pty Ltd
Unit 34, 53-57 Link Drive
Yatala QLD 4207

When collecting a sample of any of the above household building materials these guidelines should be followed.

Stage 1 – Preparation

1. Apply all personal protective equipment (PPE). PPE must be worn at all times.
2. The relevant PPE includes:
 - a) P2 disposable dust mask that meets the designated Australian Standards;
 - b) Disposable latex gloves; and
 - c) Disposable coveralls
3. Ensure all required equipment is available and ready for the sampling stage.
4. Ensure no one else is in the vicinity during sampling.
5. Turn off all air conditioning systems and fans.
6. Lay down a plastic drop sheet to catch any loose material that may become dislodged during the sampling stage.

Collecting Settled Dust Samples:

1. Using electrical duct tape (not fibrous gaffer or sticky tape) with the sticky side down, gently lower the tape on the settled dust. Once tape is resting on the settled dust gently press down on the back of the tape to ensure the dust adheres to the sticky side of the tape.
2. Fold the tape on to itself to trap the dust on the inside.

Stage 3 – Sample Containment

1. Place each individual sample into a 'zip-lock' plastic bag and seal.
2. Place this sealed sample into another 'zip-lock' plastic bag and seal to double wrap the sample.
3. Complete the label information on the bag including:

a) Material sampled	d) Date sampled
b) Location of sample	e) Name of sampler
c) Address of property	

3. Payment may be made via credit card or in person at our office via EFTPOS.
4. Sample results will be provided within 7 days of the sample being received.
5. Samples will be analysed in Octief's NATA accredited laboratory in accordance with the methodology outlined in the Australian Standard (AS4964-2001) for the presence of asbestos within bulk samples.
6. Upon receipt of payment, a NATA endorsed laboratory report will be issued to the designated email address.



Stage 4 – Decontamination

1. Seal the exposed edges of the sampled material with PVA glue to minimize any fibres being released.
2. Wipe down all relevant areas and tools with wet wipes.
3. Place all contaminated items in the asbestos waste bag.
4. Fold the plastic drop sheet inwards on itself to contain any debris of dust. Place the plastic drop sheet into the asbestos waste bag taking care not to spill any contents.
5. Remove coveralls and gloves and place in asbestos waste bag.
6. Wash your hands.
7. Seal the asbestos waste bag with duct tape to ensure nothing can escape.
8. Remove P2 dust mask and dispose
9. Dispose the asbestos waste bag in accordance with local government requirements.

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