



Below is a guide to sampling of potential asbestos containing board materials and the equipment required for compliance with the *Code of Practice: How to manage and control asbestos in the workplace*, and to allow a water absorption test in accordance with the methodology outlined by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) in the UK to be carried out to distinguish between non-friable asbestos cement type boards and friable asbestos insulating type boards

SAMPLING EQUIPMENT

- Spray bottle (filled with water containing a few drops of detergent);
- Wet wipes / damp paper towels or rags;
- Waterproof sealant / filler (quick setting and designed for both interior and exterior use);
- Adhesive spray;
- Sample bags – resealable plastic bags;
- Non-serrated pliers;
- Stanley knife and spare blades;
- Plastic drop sheet;
- HAZMAT waste bags and black duct tape;
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – disposable coveralls, disposable gloves;
- Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) – particulate respirator fitted with a P2 filter;

SAMPLING PROCEDURE

PREPARATION

- Collect the equipment you will need for sampling;
- Where the sampling area is manned, ask the occupants to vacate the area for the short period of time required to allow for sampling to be undertaken;
- Minimise airflow in the sampling area to reduce the spread of any released fibres;
 - close doors and windows;
 - turn off air conditioning / heating systems and ceiling fans;
 - if outside, sample on a non windy day;

COLLECT THE SAMPLE

- Put on RPE and PPE prior to commencing sampling;
- Lay a small HAZMAT waste bag flat on the floor at the sampling location – this acts as a plastic drop sheet to catch any loose material that may fall off while sampling;
- Place the sampling equipment next to the drop sheet;
- Collect a representative sample;
 - wet the material using the spray bottle before taking the sample to reduce the release of asbestos fibres;
 - carefully cut a single piece of board material minimum size 3cm x 3cm (or 9cm²) from its entire depth;

NOTE:

- do not disturb the material any more than is needed to take the required sample;
 - sample from below head height where possible;
 - use minimally intrusive techniques;
 - where possible collect the sample from an area of the material that is already damaged e.g. the corner edge of cement sheeting;
 - where there are no areas of damage, collect the sample from an inconspicuous area e.g. low-level corner behind a door;
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- Place the sample into a resealable plastic bag and completely seal the bag;
 - Place the sealed bag into a second resealable plastic bag and completely seal as above;



- Label the outer bag with the date, sample number, sample location and material sampled;
e.g. 1st Jan 2020 – S01 – Kitchen Wall Sheeting
- Use wet wipes, a damp paper towel or rag to clean up any material on the outside of the resealable plastic bags or around the area sampled;
- Seal the edges of the material where the sample was taken with adhesive spray and / or waterproof sealant / filler;
- Carefully wrap up the plastic drop sheet with duct tape and then put this into a labelled heavy-duty plastic asbestos waste disposal bag;
- Wipe down the tools and equipment used with wet wipes, a damp paper towel or rag;
- Place used wet wipes, paper towels or rags into the asbestos waste disposal bag;
- Place PPE (disposable gloves and coveralls) into the asbestos waste disposal bag – keep RPE on until clean-up is completed;
- Seal the asbestos waste disposal bag with duct tape;
- Wash hands;
- Follow a decontamination procedure (personal washing) and wash RPE upon completion of the task;
- Remove RPE – store non-disposable RPE in a sealed and labelled container or dispose of the RPE as asbestos waste;
- Dispose of asbestos materials and waste according to state or territory and local procedures;
- Fill out a sample submission form and submit the sample(s) to OCTIEF's NATA accredited asbestos testing laboratory;

OCTIEF Laboratory

QLD Branch: Unit 34 / 53-57 Link Drive Yatala QLD 4207

NT Branch: Unit 12 / 16 Charlton Court, Woolner NT 0820

Tel: 1800 628 433

Email: octieflab@octief.com.au