

## ALS NZ

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# Asbestos Sampling Guide

This information is provided as a guide on how to sample materials potentially containing asbestos and submit them to be analysed in an accredited testing laboratory. If asked, **ALS NZ will always encourage people who are not experienced in handling asbestos containing materials to not collect samples themselves.** They should use a competent 3<sup>rd</sup> party to do so, and we will gladly provide details of organisations with that ability.

WorkSafe NZ has specified in the Approved Code of Practice for Management and Removal of Asbestos (2016) that the health risks associated with asbestos are such that only a competent person should collect samples (Clause 6.10). This is to minimise personal exposure, dust generation, and to avoid contamination of surrounding areas.

However, in practice we are aware that inexperienced private individuals, from time to time, choose to collect and submit samples of building materials for testing. This Technical Note has been written in good faith to provide guidance as to how to do this safely, for those who are not experienced in handling asbestos containing material.

**Inexperienced people should never attempt to sample lagging or insulation. These materials are unstable and present a high risk of creating an inhalation risk and/or contamination of the sampling area.**

## Equipment required:

- |                           |                               |                                       |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ✓ P2 disposable dust mask | ✓ Asbestos Waste Bags         | ✓ PVC Tape                            |
| ✓ Wet Wipes               | ✓ Disposable Type 5 Coveralls | ✓ Asbestos waste bag                  |
| ✓ Zip lock bags           | ✓ Needle Nose Pliers          | ✓ Water spray bottle (with detergent) |
| ✓ Disposable latex gloves | ✓ Marker Pen                  |                                       |
| ✓ Plastic Drop Sheet      | ✓ PVA Glue                    |                                       |

## 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 New Zealand Standards,
  - b) Disposable latex gloves and
  - c) Disposable coveralls
3. Ensure no one else is in the vicinity during sampling.
4. Turn off all heating and cooling systems including fans.
5. Do not disturb material any more than is needed.
6. Lay down a plastic drop sheet to catch any loose material that may become dislodged during the sampling stage.



## Stage 2 - Sampling the Material

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 a small fragment of material. Take care to minimize the amount of dust generated during this process.
4. A sample size of approximately 5 cm is ideal, ensuring that the sample is consistent with the whole of the material and is collected through the entire depth of the material.

When taking multiple samples ensure sampling tools are decontaminated in between each sample using wet wipes to minimise cross contamination.

## 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.

Include the **date, location,** and **asbestos caution warning** on the outside of the bag in permanent marker pen.

## Stage 4 - Clean Up

1. Seal exposed edges of the material that has been sampled with PVA glue or paint to minimise fibers being released in the future.
2. Wipe down all relevant areas and tools with wet wipes.
3. Place all contaminated items and your PPE gear into a waste bag.
4. Place a second asbestos waste bag over first and seal. Give this bag to the ALS NZ lab you are submitting samples to, and they will dispose of this appropriately.  
DO NOT place in general rubbish.

**NEVER use your vacuum cleaner to clean up debris or dust.**

## Stage 5 - Submitting a Sample

1. Please contact us for a Chain of Custody Form.
2. Deliver the sample(s) to your nearest ALS NZ at the following address:

<b>Hamilton</b>	Ruakura Research Centre, 10 Bisley Road	+64 7 974 4740
<b>Christchurch</b>	34 Brisbane Street, Sydenham	+64 3 662 9357

**If in doubt at any point, stop and consult an experienced sampler to avoid risk to yourself and others.**