



# How to Take Asbestos Samples

Asbestos is a mineral that was used in many buildings across Australia. However, asbestos releases dangerous fibres that can sicken or kill those who inhale them. Taking a sample of asbestos for analysis is somewhat of a delicate task, but armed with knowledge and following all proper procedures, it can be done safely and correctly.

Sampling and laboratory testing is the only conclusive method of identifying the presence of Asbestos. The result provided by the laboratory is a record of the asbestos or non-asbestos content of the sample piece provided for analysis.

Sampling involves collection of a sample of the suspect material that is not bigger than a 10 cent piece. In the sampling process the production of air borne fibres should be minimised.

## Instructions

### Things You'll Need:

- Disposable gloves
- P2 disposable mask
- PVA Glue
- Water
- Detergent
- Spray bottle
- Knife
- Resealable bag
- Paper towel

### Instructions

1. Shut down all items that circulate air. Place plastic gloves on your hands and the P2 mask on, and make sure your clothing does not reach over your wrist. If desired, a plastic tarp may be placed under the asbestos material. Contact should be kept to an absolute minimum with the substance itself, due to the toxic effects of inhaling microscopic asbestos fibres.
2. Fill the spray bottle with water and add a small amount of detergent. Spray this mixture over the entirety of the exposed asbestos, and primarily over the area you will sample from. The material should be only very slightly damp; even a small amount of liquid will help cease fibre release.
3. Cut a small piece of the asbestos away from the main body using a sharp knife, chisel or blade. The sample should include approximately a 2cm square (roughly the size of your thumb nail) of the material. Place the sample into the resealable bag and close it tightly and completely.
4. Dampen the paper towel and wipe off the surfaces around the asbestos. Wipe off the outside of the plastic bag, especially any part of the bag that may have come into contact with the sample. If a tarp was used, remove it and fold it up and seal with tape. Remove the plastic gloves and mask and dispose along with the paper towels and tarp. Check state regulations regarding disposal of material in contact with asbestos. Wash the knife
5. Label the plastic bag with a permanent marker, indicating where and when the sample was taken. Place this bag inside another zip lock bag for delivery to AARMS for testing.
6. Place the PVA glue over the area where the sample has been taken.