

COLLECTING A SAMPLE

For asbestos identification



Under current health and safety laws residential homeowners can choose to test for asbestos themselves. We recommend that you leave testing to the professionals, but if you want to do it, take the time to learn the risks and the right way to do it to keep you and your family safe.

You will need to take a sample about the size of a 50 cent piece of the material you want to be tested for asbestos.

There are basic safety precautions that you must take.



Here's our step-by-step guide:

- Make sure there is no one who will walk through the area of testing.
 - Keep pets out of the way and be especially mindful of children.
 - If you are testing from a ceiling for ensure plastic drop cloths are placed under your ladder.
 - Collect your ceiling sample with a container ready to catch any falling debris that may become loose from scraping.
 - Wear an appropriate respirator:
Ordinary dust masks are not effective in preventing the inhalation of asbestos fibres and dust. You should wear either a half-face filter respirator fitted with a class P2 filter cartridge. Respiratory protection devices should comply with New Zealand Standard 1716. This number will always be displayed on the mask. To ensure that the respirator is effective, users should be clean-shaven, and the respirator should have a close fit.
 - To prevent any contamination, wear disposable overalls and gloves.
 - Wet the material to suppress dust release.
 - Carefully collect a sample using hand tools not power tools (sample size should be 5-100g). We recommend using pliers for bonded materials such as plasterboard and vinyl with the inside edges protected with a wet wipe. For textured ceilings use a hand scraper.
 - Place the sample (including the wet wipe if used) in a click lock plastic bag.
 - Double bag your sample in a second sealable plastic bag.
 - After sampling, you should spray paint with a suitable PVC paint to seal any broken material with the potential to cause airborne asbestos dust.
 - Do not use a domestic vacuum to clean up any loose debris instead double bag your disposable overalls, drop sheet and gloves and dispose of any materials used during the test at a disposal facility licensed to take asbestos.
-  Alternatively call us at ARNZ for professional asbestos testing and removal. You be confident that it is being done correctly and accurately!
- ↳ Call 09 360 7990