

SAMPLING FOR POTENTIAL ASBESTOS CONTAINING MATERIALS IN DRYWALL

It is strongly recommended that all samples collected for asbestos analysis be completed by a qualified environmental professional. However, some homeowners prefer to take these samples themselves. The following tips are to help ensure that homeowners who choose to proceed with the sampling on their own do so in a safer and effective manner. These tips are for homeowners only and not intended for the use of employers or employer representatives.

***** Appropriate drywall compound and/or texture coat samples MUST contain drywall compound and/or texture coat. Do Not Collect Samples of only Drywall *****

By following these tips, you will be able to take more effective samples to ensure proper analysis, meet regulatory requirements and protect your safety.

1. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment while collecting samples, including but not limited to: a HEPA filtered respirator, Tyvek suit, and latex gloves.
2. Ensure that each sample is at least the size of a toonie or slightly larger (whole pieces of drywall are too large to analyze) no larger than 2.5 inches x 2.5 inches.
3. A representative number of samples must be collected. At a minimum: 3 samples for less than 1000 sq. ft., 5 samples for 1000-5000 sq. ft., and 7 samples for greater than 5000 sq. ft.
4. Take samples from corners, edges or other areas where there is a greater chance that drywall joint compound is present.
5. Wet the area where the sample will be taken using a spray bottle or a damp disposable rag.
6. Using a utility knife, or other sharp tool, cut away a portion of the wall or ceiling ensuring that you penetrate through the paint, drywall joint compound, joint (paper) tape, and the gypsum board.
7. Place the sample in a sealable "Ziploc" bag and make sure the bag is wiped clean.
8. Clean the area from where the sample was collected with a damp disposable rag and dispose of appropriately. Seal the area from where the sample was collected with duct tape, or some equivalent method, to prevent further exposure.
9. Bring the samples to a qualified laboratory for asbestos analysis.

***** Do not bring unsealed samples to any laboratory *****