

Nelson Office

281 Queen Street
Richmond 7020
PO Box 647, Nelson 7040
Ph / Fax: (03) 546 1573 / (03) 546 1542

Marlborough Office

Marlborough Health Hub
22 Queen Street, Blenheim 7201
PO Box 46, Blenheim 7240
Ph / Fax: (03) 520 9914 / (03) 578 9517

ASBESTOS

How to take a sample for Lab Testing

The Public Health Service does not undertake asbestos testing for building reports related to property sale/purchase agreements, for commercial/rental property, for builders, or other commercial enterprises. We only undertake free testing for householders wanting to remove their own (DIY) flooring or cladding material that potentially contains asbestos. Contractors may send a sample directly to a laboratory at their cost. Two companies offer this asbestos testing service:

- Capital Environmental Services – www.fibres.co.nz
- Hill Laboratories – www.hill-laboratories.com

If you decide to take a sample yourself, it is important that you do it safely to make sure that you do not expose yourself or others to asbestos fibres. Make sure that not other people are present during sampling unless they are wearing personal protective equipment e.g., overalls and a respirator. Please read the information below if you are considering taking an asbestos sample.

What you will need:

- Re-sealable plastic bags
- Disposable overalls & gloves
- Thick plastic waste bag
- Detergent
- Wet wipes (moist towelette)
- At least a P2 disposable respirator or half mask respirator fitted with a P2 filter
- Plastic drop sheets
- Water spray bottle
- Sticky tape
- Cloth

The above equipment required to take a sample should be available at any hardware store.

Steps

1. Wear a P2 respirator and disposable overalls before attempting to remove the sample
2. Place a plastic drop sheet directly beneath the sampling point to catch any loose material that may fall off while taking the sample
3. Fill the water spray bottle and add a few drops of detergent
4. Use the spray bottle so the mist wets the material that you are sampling
5. Do not disturb the material any more than is needed to take the sample

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- **Textured Plaster Ceilings/Walls** – gently scrape 2–3cm² of textured material off the ceiling with a flat edge scraper. Do this in 3–5 different ceiling/wall areas.
 - **Vinyl Floor Coverings or Linoleum Tiles** – cut off a piece of about 2–3cm². Ensure the papery backing material which usually remains stuck to the floor is included in the sample.
 - **Cement sheet** – cut off a piece about 2–3cm²
6. Place the sample into a re-sealable plastic bag. Each sample must be placed in a separate bag. Double bag the sample.
 7. Label the bag with the date, location of sample (ceiling/floor/wall etc.), owner name, property address, phone number and email.
 8. If taking another sample, clean the sampling tools between each sample to avoid cross-contamination. Wiping with a wet wipe or cleaning under running water is sufficient.
 9. Cleaning up after taking a sample – use a damp cloth to wet wipe any sampling equipment and any material around the area that the sample was taken from.
 10. Seal the sampling point after collecting the sample. Cover with sticky tape or similar.
 11. Carefully wrap the plastic drop sheet to seal it.
 12. Place overalls, damp rags, sealed drop sheet and any other materials (P2 respirator, wet wipes, gloves, etc.) used in collecting the sample into a plastic rubbish bag.
 13. Only remove your respirator once the entire clean-up process has been completed.
 14. Wash your hands, including your fingernails.
 15. Contact your local Council for advice on the disposal of the waste bag.
 16. Complete the attached Asbestos Sample Detail sheet.
 17. Take sample(s) to either the Nelson office at
 - 281 Queen Street, RichmondOr the Marlborough office at
 - 22 Queen Street, Blenheim

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The Public Health Service is unable to accept samples from commercial operators, including property managers and real estate agents, builders, etc. The funding of sample analysis is for homeowners DIY work only.

By submitting this sample, you are acknowledging that you are not a commercial operator.

ASBESTOS SAMPLE DETAIL			
Date:		Client Name:	
Phone:		Mobile:	Email:
Address: (Where sample taken)			
	<i>Office use only</i>	Sample Number & detail	
Sample Location (e.g. flooring from kitchen, ceiling material from lounge, cladding from west side of house etc.)	HPO Sample No	Sample 1	
	HPO Sample No	Sample 2	
	HPO Sample No	Sample 3	
	HPO Sample No	Sample 4	

Office use only:

HPO:	Email:	MOH Contract:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Instructions to Lab:

This sample has been submitted by NMPHS (by the HPO named above)

Please email the results back to the HPO only.

We do not require a hard copy.