

Practical Health and Safety Solutions

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Do I Need a Predemolition Asbestos Audit?

The City of Winnipeg (and other municipalities) require a predemolition asbestos audit be performed before they will issue a Demolition Permit.

In addition, safety and health regulations require that certain precautions be followed when disturbing asbestos-containing material. A predemolition audit will identify the location of asbestos-containing material in your building so that you know when to take asbestos-specific precautions.

Possible Asbestos Containing Materials (ACM)

Many different materials commonly found in buildings can contain asbestos, including:

- Boiler and pipe insulation
- Mastic under floor tiles and flooring
- Wall plaster
- Vermiculite in attic insulation
- Floor tiles and sheet flooring
- Ceiling stipple / spackle
- Ceiling tiles
- Drywall joint compound

Sample Collection

Samples are collected of suspect ACMs. The collection of a sample involves making a small incision (the size of a postage stamp) into the material or cutting off a small section of the material. Care will be taken to minimize the disturbance of all suspect materials.

Labelling of Sampling Locations

A building audit involves taking a number of samples from materials that are often similar in appearance and in close proximity to other samples. Without appropriate precautions, this can lead to confusion about where a specific sample was taken and coordinating the results with the specific material sampled.

Winnipeg Air Testing places an Identification Number label at the location where each sample is collected (see picture on right). A duplicate numbered label is placed on the sample itself. Thus, every location and corresponding sample is clearly and uniquely identified.



The results are provided in an easy to read table of findings that includes the sample number, the location of the material, the type of the material and the laboratory result.

Table of Findings

| Sample ID | Location | Type of Material | Asbestos Lab Result |
|-----------|----------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 8866 | Garage Attic Space | Vermiculite Insulation | No Asbestos Detected |
| 8867 | | Vermiculite Insulation | No Asbestos Detected |
| 8868 | | Vermiculite Insulation | No Asbestos Detected |
| 8869 | 2 nd Floor Hallway | DWJC | No Asbestos Detected |
| 8870 | 2 nd Floor NW Bedroom | DWJC | No Asbestos Detected |
| 8871 | | Cream Pattern Flooring | 21% Chrysotile Asbestos |
| 8872 | Basement | DWJC | No Asbestos Detected |



Pictures of the materials are included in the report. A clear description of the location, a unique sample numbering system and a picture of the material makes sure you know exactly where the asbestos is.

Image of Asbestos Flooring Found under Carpeting