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Do-It-Yourself Sampling Guidance Zonolite/Vermiculite Insulation

If you need to collect a sample for asbestos testing, the following sampling methodology developed by the ZAI Trust is offered for guidance. Samples may be submitted via US Mail or other shipping method with appropriate protective packaging. See the Tri-Tech Do-It-Yourself Mail-In form. http://www.tri-techtesting.com/Tri-Tech_homeowner_mail-in_form_v-h.pdf

Supplies: spray misting bottle, respirator, disposable gloves, a scooper, wet wipes and two large ziplock bags

1. Assess whether the floor in the attic will support a person's weight to ensure that appropriate precautions are taken for safety.
2. Significant disturbance of vermiculite can release fibers in the air. Collection of a few samples of vermiculite should not require much time or disturbances. However, work slowly and carefully.
3. Wear disposable gloves and respiratory protection (if you have it) when collecting the sample and dispose of the gloves when you are done, especially if you intend to make multiple visits to the attic or disturb the vermiculite more than would be required to collect a few samples.
4. Mist the area to be disturbed with a water spray bottle. Saturation is fine and will not affect the test.
5. Use a Ziploc style one-gallon bag for collection. Carefully scoop the insulation into the bag, or use a separate disposable scoop to put the insulation into the bag. Avoid collecting non-vermiculite substances (e.g. wood or fiberglass) if possible. Take three samples of the insulation from different areas of the attic and collect in a single bag. **Please carefully scoop to the full depth of the vermiculite rather than just scooping it from the top.** This will help ensure that the sample is more representative of the constituents throughout the vermiculite. You should fill the bag nearly full.
6. Before leaving the attic, wipe the outside of the sample bag with a clean damp cloth, then place bag in another seal-able Ziploc style plastic bag.
7. After coming down from the attic, also wipe the plastic bag containing the sample with a clean damp cloth.

If you have further questions, feel free to ask!

Note: Samples collected by homeowners are not necessarily acceptable for official purposes. Please check with your renovation contractor, local residential building authority or real estate agent for any specific requirements. Residential environmental testing is generally required to be disclosed during property transactions whether for official or advisory purposes.

Commercial-Grade Indoor Environmental Testing on a Residential Budget