

WorkSafeBC

Guidance on the minimum number of bulk samples that should be collected to identify any asbestos that might be present in a residence or a commercial building prior to demolition.

Type of material	Size of area of homogeneous material	Minimum number of bulk material samples to be collected*
Surfacing materials, including textured coatings, drywall mud, plasters, and stucco	less than 90 square metres (approx. 1,000 square feet)	At least 3 samples of each type of surfacing material
	between 90 square metres and 450 square metres (approx. 5,000 square feet)	At least 5 samples of each type of surfacing material
	greater than 450 square metres	At least 7 samples of each type of surfacing material
Sprayed insulation and blown-in insulation, including sprayed fireproofing and vermiculite insulation (including vermiculite insulation within concrete masonry units - CMUs).	less than 90 square metres (approx. 1,000 square feet)	At least 3 samples
	between 90 square metres and 450 square metres (approx. 5,000 square feet)	At least 5 samples
	greater than 450 square metres.	At least 7 samples
Flooring, including vinyl sheet flooring (and backing) and floor tiles	Any size	At least 1 sample per flooring type in each room (and 1 from each layer of flooring)
Mechanical insulation, including duct taping, pipe insulation, elbows, and boiler/tank insulation	Any size	At least 3 samples per house or mechanical or boiler room
Mastics and putty, including duct mastic (around penetrations) and window putty	Any size	At least 3 samples per house or mechanical or boiler room
Roofing materials, including felting and shingles	less than 90 square metres (approx. 1,000 square feet)	At least 1 sample (each layer of material must be sampled)
	between 90 square metres and 450 square metres (approx. 5,000 square feet)	At least 2 samples (each layer of material must be sampled)
	greater than 450 square metres	At least 3 samples (each layer of material must be sampled)





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Asbestos cement (transite) board and pipe	Any size	At least 1 sample
Other materials	Any size	At least 1 sample per type of material

* If the material is assumed to contain asbestos then samples do not have to be collected. The professional judgment of a qualified person can be used to reduce the number of bulk samples of homogeneous materials. If fewer samples than the minimum recommended number are collected, the surveyor should document the rationale for his/her position in the survey report.

Please note this table is subject to change without notice-always refer to current OH&S Guideline G20.112