



**SOLUTIONS**  
FOR A WORKING WORLD

# VERMICULITE INSULATION & BULK BUILDING MATERIALS

## Sampling and Submitting Guide

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When taking samples of potentially asbestos-containing bulk materials, there are certain precautions that can be taken to avoid unnecessary exposure to asbestos fibers. The following sampling instructions are in accordance with the EPA recommended procedure for safe handling of potentially hazardous bulk samples.

### SAMPLING AND SUBMITTING INSTRUCTIONS

- Material should be sampled when areas are not in use, if possible.
- If available, use a dust mask or NIOSH approved respirator. If not available, avoid creating and breathing dust. You may want to wet the material to be sampled with water from a spray bottle to help reduce dust formation.
- Use a clean and dry 'zip-lock' bag to hold each sample.
- Using the 'zip-lock' bag and a small clean knife, cut out small pieces of the material about 2 square inches or 2 tablespoons. Be sure to penetrate any paint, protective coating, or glue to sample all layers of the material.
- For **VERMICULITE SAMPLES**, 1 cup of material per sample is required. Be sure to 'scoop from the bottom' when taking vermiculite samples because asbestos fibers tend to settle. Put each sample in its own 'zip-lock' bag.
- Once a sample is collected, tightly close the bag and wipe the outside with a damp cloth to remove any dust.
- Label each sample bag identifying the structure, the sampling date, the specific location of the sample in the room or structure, and who took the sample.
- Fill out an **ASBESTOS BULK SAMPLES CHAIN OF CUSTODY** form available for download at [www.lexscientific.com/Client-Resources.htm](http://www.lexscientific.com/Client-Resources.htm).
- Deliver all your samples and completed chain of custody form to our Guelph laboratory by hand or by mail for analysis.

Additionally, when taking **VERMICULITE SAMPLES**, the EPA and Health Canada recommend wearing a respirator and not remaining in the area longer than necessary. A NIOSH approved half-face P100 respirator can be purchased at hardware stores or from safety suppliers. Please note that this type of respirator should not be used for any major disturbance of vermiculite (renovations, removal, etc.). To avoid tracking dust through your home, plastic sheets can be placed below areas of work.