

DRINKING WATER QUALITY SAMPLE COLLECTION FOR ASBESTOS

What types of systems are required to collect asbestos samples?

Community and Non-Transient Non-Community water systems are required to collect for asbestos when the water system is known to use asbestos-cement piping as a distribution or service line or if there is a potential for asbestos contamination of the water source.

Location of collection:

The sample should be collected by a commonly used tap served by cement-asbestos piping and under conditions where asbestos contamination is most likely to occur. Within distribution, this is determined by the operators mapping and or history as to where the asbestos cement piping is being used. This location should be approved by NMED-DWB as part of the sample site plan.

Sample Bottles, Collection, Preservation and Paperwork:

Contact the laboratory to have them ship the proper sample container to the collector. The tap that is chosen should be removed of all hoses and fittings. The faucet should be opened up and allowed to run for a sufficiently long period to assure proper flush and ensure fresh water supply. A good indicator of fresh water supply is to feel the water when the faucet is first turned on and feel for a temperature change. If possible, samples should not be collected from any hydrants or faucets on a dead end line in distribution.

As a contamination precaution, each bottle may be rinsed with the source water that is being tested before the final collection is made. There should be an air gap left at the top of the sample to allow proper mixing before analyzing. No preservative should be added to the sample itself; however the sample must be placed in an ice bath immediately following the collection and kept at about 5 degrees Celsius in the dark until it is received by the laboratory. Do not freeze the water sample.

The analytical request form (chain of custody) should be filled out correctly with the water system and facility identification numbers, date and time of collection, and the collector's signature.

Shipping samples to the lab:

Samples must be shipped as soon as possible and received at lab within 48 hours of collection. The sample should arrive at about 5 degrees Celsius. It is recommended that wet ice (ice made from water) be used rather blue ice packs (gel that is frozen in a plastic container) because wet ice will reduce the temperature of the sample and gel packs will not. **Frozen water samples are not accepted.**

The sample containers should be properly secured with bubble wrap or some packaging within the cooler to avoid thrashing and breaking of sample containers. The cooler should be sealed and taped with initials to prevent tampering of samples during shipment. A copy of the analytical request form should be made for water system records and sample tracking. Water systems are expected to pay for shipping their own asbestos samples to the lab.