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Vermiculite / ZAI (Zonolite Attic Insulation) Sampling

Pinchin Environmental provides 3 hour rush analysis ^[1] of vermiculite samples.

Homeowners may have justified concerns in wanting to have their vermiculite insulation tested. These concerns might include:

- The attic is used for living space or frequently entered storage.
- Dust is sifting out of the attic or walls through seams, ducts or penetrations.
- If the insulation will be affected by a home renovation or alteration.
- If you are planning to sell your home.

In these cases, testing and expert advice is warranted. If you decide to have the suspect material analysed (since not all vermiculite insulation contains asbestos), for your own safety, please follow the recommended sampling procedure below.

We have provided further information on Vermiculite/ZAI on our [Vermiculite / ZAI Resource page](#) ^[2].

Vermiculite / ZAI Insulation Sampling Procedure

1. The homeowner is advised to collect a minimum of three (3) separate samples of the vermiculite insulation. Multiple sampling may identify conditions of mixed asbestos and non-asbestos vermiculite that a single sample would miss. Also, provincial occupational health and safety law for Ontario at least, requires a minimum of three samples from any single material of uniform appearance to conclude it is not an asbestos-containing material.
2. Collect two cups full of insulation taken from the bottom half of the insulation in the attic or from the bottom of the wall cavity (the asbestos tends to settle to the bottom).

3. Avoid creating and breathing any more dust than necessary during this collection and do not remain in the area longer than necessary. The U.S. EPA and Health Canada recommend that you use a respirator to reduce the dust you breathe during this collection. You can purchase a NIOSH approved half-face P100 respirator from most hardware stores or safety houses. Follow the instructions with the respirator regarding fitting and maintenance. This respirator should not be used for major disturbance of vermiculite which would be encountered during renovations in the attic or for removal of the material. Try to avoid tracking the insulation or dust into the living space of the house.
4. Place the sample in a zip lock freezer bag and provide the following information on each bag or fastened to the bags:
 - Name
 - Address
 - Phone number
 - Fax or email address
5. Complete the **Chain of Custody Form for Vermiculite & ZAI Analysis** ^[3] and submit it with the samples
6. Have samples brought, mailed or couriered with payment to:

**Mississauga
Asbestos Lab**

Pinchin Environmental
Ltd.
Attention: Karen Slayer
2470 Milltower Court
([Map](#) ^[4])
Mississauga, ON L5N
7W5
Phone: 905-363-1385
Fax: 905-363-0681
Email:
kslayer@pinchin.com ^[5]

Ottawa Asbestos Lab

Pinchin Environmental Ltd.
Attention: Kendra Bertuzzi
515 Legget Drive, Suite 200
([Map](#) ^[6])
Kanata, ON K2K 3G4
Phone: 613-592-3387
Fax: 613-592-5897
Email: kbertuzzi@pinchin.com
^[7]

Office hours are 8:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday to Friday. There is an after-hours sample drop box beside the main doors of the Mississauga Head Office.


Pricing for Vermiculite/ZAI Analysis:

The cost for regular analysis (5 day) is \$100 per sample plus GST for a total of \$105.00; or \$150 plus GST for the analysis of three samples from the same property, required in

Ontario to conclude a material is not an asbestos-containing material, for a total of \$157.50.

Rush Service: Results 3 hours after samples received within business hours 8:30 – 5:00 Monday to Friday. For samples received after 3 pm, results due the next morning. No results on week-ends. \$200 per set of 3 samples plus GST for a total of \$210.00.

Payment can be made by Visa, MasterCard or cash. Please include this with the sample when submitted (include expiry date and full name on the card if paying by credit card).

Attachment	Size
 Homeowner Chain of Custody Form - Vermiculite/ZAI Analysis ^[8]	55.85 KB

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Source URL: <http://www.pinchin.com/homeowners/vermiculite-ZAI-insulation-sampling>

Links:

[1] <http://www.pinchin.com/homeowners/vermiculite-ZAI-insulation-sampling#rush>

[2] <http://www.pinchin.com/homeowners/zai-vermiculite>

[3] <http://www.pinchin.com/file-newest/Homeowner-Chain-Custody-Vermiculite-ZAI.pdf>

[4] <http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&hl=en&q=2470 Milltower Court, Mississauga&sll=43.58829,-79.64378&ssp=0.167854,0.31929&ie=UTF8&z=16&iwloc=addr&om=1>

[5] <mailto:kslayer@pinchin.com>

[6] <http://maps.google.ca/maps?f=q&hl=en&geocode=&q=515 Legget Drive, Kanata&sll=49.891235,-97.15369&ssp=38.380876,79.101563&ie=UTF8&om=0&ll=45.394593,-75.903168&spn=0.317269,0.512238&z=10>

[7] <mailto:kbertuzzi@pinchin.com>

[8] http://www.pinchin.com/files/Homeowner-Chain-Custody-Vermiculite-ZAI_1.pdf