

INTERPRETING YOUR ASBESTOS REPORT – COLUMN BY COLUMN



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Client:	John Smith	PEL Client No.:	2
Project Name:	Remodeling Project	PEL Work Order No.:	22301001
Project Address:	1234 Main	Date Received:	1/1/2025
Project No.:	Ann Arbor, MI 48103	Date Analyzed:	1/3/2025
Methodology:	EPA-600/M4-82-020 and EPA-600/R-93-116	Received By:	Ryan Shannon
T/A Time:	3-day	Analyzed By:	Ryan Shannon
Project Contact :	John Smith	Sample Date:	12/31/2025

PEL Sample No.	Client Sample No.:	Composition	Color	Description	Asbestos Presence/Absence & Type (if present)	%	Non-Asbestos Fiber Type	%	Non-Fibrous Matrix Types		
1	Sample 1	Homogeneous	Brown	Floor Tile	Chrysotile	12.00					
1A		Homogeneous	Black	Mastic	Chrysotile	<1					
2	Sample 2	Homogeneous	Grey	Ceiling Tile	Amosite	3.00					
3	Sample 3	Homogeneous	White	Popcorn Ceiling	No Asbestos Detected				Calcium Carbonate	Perlite	

PEL Sample No. – The lab-assigned sequential sample number. This will be 1, 2, 3, etc. for all samples. Any sample with a letter appended (1A, 2B, etc.) was a layer (separable secondary material) taken from the original sample. So in the above example, the floor tile and mastic were part of the same original sample as indicated by the “1” and “1A” sample numbers, but were separated and analyzed separately.

Client Sample No. – This is the client-assigned sample number as written on the COC in the “Sample ID” column.

Composition – The sample will be classified either as “homogenous” or “composite”. Homogenous means that only a single material is present as analyzed (after any layering). Composite is used when multiple materials are present, but they are being analyzed together, generally because they form a single manufactured unit. Examples include the paper and gypsum components of drywall, or the vinyl top and fibrous backing of linoleum.

Color and Description – Simple physical descriptions of the color and identity of the material by the analyst.

Asbestos Presence/Absence & Type – This is your qualitative result. If any of the six regulated asbestos types (chrysotile, amosite, crocidolite, actinolite/tremolite, anthophyllite) were detected, the identity will appear here. If it says “No asbestos detected”. That means no asbestos was detected at the limit of detection for the method of 1%.

% - Your quantitative result. The percentage of asbestos detected. If “No asbestos detected”, this will be blank. Otherwise, this will be the percentage of asbestos present as determined by CVE (calibrated visual estimate). Any value over 1% means that the material is considered to be asbestos-containing material (ACM) by the EPA. You may also see “<1%” as a percentage. This means that while asbestos was detected, it was below 1% by CVE and therefore is not considered to be ACM by the EPA. This does not necessarily mean it is “safe”, just that it does not meet the EPA classification to be ACM.

In the example above, the floor tile was found to contain 12% chrysotile asbestos, and is therefore ACM. The mastic on the floor tile was found to contain <1% asbestos, and is therefore not officially ACM, but does contain asbestos and should still be treated as potentially hazardous. The ceiling tile was found to contain 3% amosite asbestos, and is therefore ACM. The popcorn ceiling was not found to contain any asbestos, and is therefore non-ACM and does not require any special precaution.

Non-Asbestos Fiber Type and % - Since asbestos is a fibrous material, one of the method requirements is that we identify and report a percentage for all fibrous components present, even those that are not asbestos. Cellulose, synthetics, fiberglass, mineral wool, and hair are the most common in building materials.

Non Fibrous Matrix Type - Identifying most matrices with any accuracy is beyond the scope of the method. We will generally only report materials that can be very confidently identified, or very generic descriptions. This column is purely optional, so don't be surprised if there are or aren't very many entries

WHAT NEXT?

If none of your materials tested contained any asbestos, they have officially been found to be non-ACM, and you can proceed with that knowledge.

If one or more of your materials contained any asbestos, even <1%, they should be considered potentially hazardous. The EPA's recommendations can be found here:

<https://www.epa.gov/asbestos/protect-your-family-exposures-asbestos>

Essentially, if a material is undamaged and highly unlikely to be disturbed, it is recommended to leave it alone. If the material becomes damaged or disturbed, or is to be removed or encapsulated as part of a home project, it must be safely and carefully dealt with. Either way, it is recommended that you have trained and licensed professionals undertake the activity.

State of Michigan registered abatement contractors can be found here:

<https://asbestosprogram.apps.lara.state.mi.us/Contractor/ContractorSearch>

If you are outside of MI, a similar list should be available in your state.

If you do want to proceed to do the work yourself against recommendations, or need to attempt a cleanup from work you've already performed, please be as careful as possible.

- Make sure to partition the work area from the rest of the house with plastic sheeting.
- Wear a Tyvek or other disposable suit and a well-fit P100 or better mask/respirator while working. With any mask/respirator, you must be clean-shaven so the mask fits tightly to your face.
- Shower immediately upon completion of each period of work with all clothing still on.
- When finished, carefully HEPA vacuum all floors and other surfaces for at 3x as long as you think you need to. Make SURE the vacuum is true HEPA and is in good condition or else you will end up blowing the settled material everywhere via the exhaust.
- A normal household amount of ACM is legal to dispose of with normal garbage for work you do yourself. If a professional handles it, the ACM waste must end up in an appropriate Level II landfill.

But if you're in any way nervous or unsure, please do use a professional. They have all the tools and knowledge to get the work done quickly, minimize the disruption to your life, and make sure your house is as safe as it can be after the work is complete.