

ASBESTOS

Many homes built prior to 1977 (and some even after that) used building materials that contained asbestos. This is generally not a problem if the materials are not disturbed. However because of the disruption associated with recent flooding and the subsequent renovation, exposure to asbestos fibers can be a serious risk for both homeowners and construction workers. Before any gutting, renovation or demolition activity, have the affected building materials tested for the presence of asbestos and take the proper precautions if asbestos containing materials are found. Asbestos fibers are known to cause respiratory diseases like mesothelioma, asbestosis and lung cancer. Asbestos testing is inexpensive and turn-around time for results is rapid. Small representative samples are extracted from suspect surfaces and materials and sent to certified laboratories for analysis. If asbestos fibers are detected, proper remediation methods can then be utilized to protect the future occupants and contractors from exposure.

Pricing - \$80 plus \$20 per sample

MOLD

As a result of the recent flooding, many homes have become a breeding ground for potentially harmful mold. Certain types of mold can cause serious health problems to occupants of homes that have not been tested and treated. As homeowners are gutting their homes to prepare for restoration, mold testing is highly recommended. There are quick and inexpensive test that can be done to make this determination. If harmful mold is determined to be present, remediation can be accomplished relatively easily while the inner areas of the structure are exposed. Often the homeowner can complete the remediation themselves using readily available remediation products or a contractor can be utilized.

There are two methods generally used to test for mold in residential dwellings:

1. Air Testing: Air sampling pulls ambient air through a cassette and compares it to the outside air. These cassettes are then sent to a Louisiana accredited laboratory to determine if there are higher concentrations of mold spores inside than outside. This inexpensive testing can provide the analytical proof that the house was or was not remediated properly. This type of testing can be done before or after renovation activities.

Pricing - \$75 per cassette (minimum two cassettes)

2. Swab Testing: A simple swab test sent to a Louisiana accredited laboratory for analysis is an inexpensive way to determine if the visible mold that was treated is no longer active and growing. Be sure to utilize this methodology before you close up the walls. Reopening walls can be extremely frustrating and costly. If mold is found, remediation can be quick and relatively inexpensive. Have peace of mind knowing that it was done right the first time.

Pricing - \$45 per swab

Contact HES today for scheduling and additional information.

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