Friable & Nonfriable?   What's the Difference?

Friable asbestos-containing materials (ACM) will easily release fibers when crushed. Examples of friable ACM can include, but are not limited to, sheet vinyl flooring, insulation on piping, duct and boilers, fireproofing, ceiling texture and panel products, and soundproofing. Please contact the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), Air Quality Division, to obtain Friable Asbestos guidance documents www.cdphe.state.co.us/ap/asbestos.

Nonfriable asbestos-containing materials (ACM) have a binder that holds the asbestos fibers within a solid matrix and will not allow asbestos fibers to release easily unless mishandled, damaged, or in badly worn or weathered condition. Nonfriable materials must remain in nonfriable condition (predominantly whole pieces) during the removal and disposal process. Examples of nonfriable ACM can include, but are not limited to, vinyl floor tile, AC water pipe, and cement (transite) siding or roofing.

How to Take a Sample (Basic Protocols):

- Wet down the material with a light water mist **before** taking the sample. This reduces the potential release of asbestos fibers.

- Do not disturb the material any more than is necessary to take a small sample.

- Place the sample in a clean, "air-tight" container such as a zip-lock bag or small glass jar.

- Seal the container tightly.

- Use a damp paper towel to clean up any material on the outside of the container or that might have spilled onto the floor. Put the damp paper towel into a zip lock bag or similar to contain any potential dust.

- Clearly label the container, stating where and when the sample was taken.

- Send the sample to a laboratory for analyses. Make sure to take one sample for each different type of suspect material.

The best method to obtain a sample and protect yourself, the people in the close proximity and the environment is to contact an asbestos certified inspector.

Effective: 1 January 2010