



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

EPA Response to September 11

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WTC Residential Testing Results

The work of cleaning and testing residences in lower Manhattan (south of Canal Street) is underway. Depending upon the assistance requested, EPA is arranging for licensed contractors to clean and/or test residential units ([fact sheet](#)) for asbestos in air. There is no charge for this service. Requests for assistance will be accepted until December 28, 2002 [via the Web](#) or by calling EPA's toll-free World Trade Center hotline (1-877-796-5471).

Asbestos in air test results for individual residences are provided **only to residents** of the affected unit. Aggregate test results are provided here. The locations of residences that have cleared or not cleared EPA's testing criteria will be identified by block.

EPA is committed to setting the most stringent standards that can be technically achieved when testing residences for asbestos in air. We have set an initial risk-based clearance level for asbestos of 0.0009 fibers per cubic centimeter (f/cc). This means that if 10,000 people are exposed to this level of asbestos for 30 years, there may be one more case of cancer than if the group had not been exposed at all.

Testing for asbestos ([fact sheet](#)) in air calls for moving a measured volume of air across a filter, then examining that filter under a microscope equipped with a grid and counting the number of asbestos fibers found. Problems arise when too many dust and fiber particles are captured by the filter. The filter becomes overloaded and technicians examining it under the microscope cannot separate out or identify individual fibers. Residences where this occurs are listed as "Not Determined." In a residence where only testing was conducted, EPA recommends that the home be cleaned and re-tested. In a residence where both cleaning and testing were done, EPA will attempt to identify potential sources and will then re-clean and re-test the home.

Test results below reflect analytical results received through November 6th. During the initial stage of cleaning and testing, results will be updated on a weekly basis. Once data flow is established, this table will update automatically as test results are entered.

Fact Sheets / Scopes

Test Only

Quadrant (Map)	Total Requests	Cleared	Not Cleared	Not Determined
A	267	23	1	1
B	265	28	0	3
C	256	36	3	2
D	388	69	0	1
Total	1176	156	4	7

Clean and Test

Quadrant (Map)	Total Requests	Cleared	Not Cleared	Not Determined
A	1310	60	0	0
B	1281	212	0	3
C	1324	42	0	0
D	1018	1	0	1
Total	4933	315	0	4

Table Key:

Total Requests: Number of residences requesting testing.

Cleared: Number of residences with all results below the EPA clearance level.

Not Cleared: Number of residences with any results above the EPA clearance level.

Not Determined: Number of apartments with samples not analyzed due to filter overload, etc.

Frequently Asked Questions

Please Note: Individual test results will be mailed in four to six weeks. Please be patient and refrain from calling.

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