

NEWS RELEASE

From: Wonder Makers Environmental
Contact person: Susan Pinto, President
Phone: 269-382-4154
E-mail: ssp@wondermakers.com

Still innovating after 30 years! Wonder Makers celebrates three decades of service to the environmental industry.

In 1988 Wonder Makers Environmental was founded to fill an important niche in the emerging asbestos industry. As one of the EPA's first recognized AHERA instructors for asbestos control, our founder recognized the need for a tool that could efficiently collect samples of suspect asbestos material while protecting the inspector from airborne fibers.

The government's recommended method of collecting bulk samples from pipe insulation, spray-on insulation, and hundreds of other suspect asbestos materials was fraught with danger. The early training materials suggested that such material be sampled with a razor knife or pocket knife. The newly certified inspectors were encouraged to cut a triangle shape wedge from the material and "pop" it into a whirl-pack bag or film canister. Although many investigators experimented with different size cork borers to collect asbestos samples, the field decontamination of such tube-like cutting devices was difficult to implement, labor intensive, and proven to contribute to cross contamination between samples. Because of the risk of cross contamination from such practices, inspectors were required to wear suits and respirators to keep the airborne fiber levels below the permissible exposure limit.

To address these issues, and many more, Wonder Makers introduced the Asbestos Bulk Sampling System to the industry. Its ground breaking design incorporated a sharpened tube which easily attached and disconnected from a sturdy handle. This innovation was complimented by packaging each "cutter sleeve" in a clear collection vial with an airtight cap. To further simplify the sampling process, a special resin was chosen for the clear cutter sleeve container that would accept writing from an indelible marker without smearing.

While these innovations significantly simplified and sped up the process of collecting a bulk sample from suspect asbestos materials, Wonder Makers wanted to ensure that safety was paramount. As such, extensive testing was conducted utilizing the Asbestos Bulk Sampler with real asbestos pipe insulation. Analysis of personal and area samples while bulk materials were cored from various types of asbestos insulation showed the real value of the Wonder Makers' equipment compared to traditional sampling techniques. (Although several companies have

introduced competing products over the years based on Wonder Makers' design, no similar type of science has been offered to support the safety of these tools.)

While some industry professionals think that the asbestos abatement field has stagnated over the last three decades, Wonder Makers has continued to innovate. Currently, **18** asbestos bulk sampler configurations and accessories are available. These include the most popular item, the Asbestos Bulk Sampler Starter Set (product #10), as well as an Extension Coring Arm which allows sampling of overhead pipes without use of a ladder.

In conjunction with the 30th anniversary of Wonder Makers which occurs in March of 2018, extensive customer research was conducted in order to determine if additional innovations could be beneficial to the industry. That research led to the reconfiguration of the company's most popular product. The updated Starter Set will contain a new combination of tools to make it even more user friendly. The 100 cutter sleeves in collection vials will now be supplemented with a T-Handle and a Power Driver; an attachment that allows the coring sleeve to connect to a drill. In addition, a bottle of Wonder Fill high temperature encapsulant is now included which allows the inspector to repair sample damage without resorting to duct tape.

The adjustments to the Asbestos Bulk Sampler Starter Set are not the only improvements scheduled for 2018. Wonder Makers is planning a variety of specials to celebrate their three decades of service to the asbestos, lead, mold, and indoor environmental quality industries. Such an approach is a testament to the fact that Wonder Makers was an organization created by practical innovation supported by science that has continued to build on that foundation for one score and ten years.

For more information please contact Susan Pinto at Wonder Makers Environmental 269-382-4154 or ssp@wondermakers.com