

## SAMPLING GUIDE

### Environmental Surface Swab



### Why Should You Sample?

- To verify clean up is effective.
- To verify the adequacy of GMPs and no cross contamination of equipment or services (e.g. water) is occurring.
- To give a measure of confidence that your product is as safe as needed.
- To verify entire spectrum of *Listeria monocytogenes* control measures are working.
- To provide historical data that the hurdle technology used in a facility is working.

### Sampling Instructions

- **Flat Surface** - Swab an area of 100cm<sup>2</sup>. Swab a 10cm x 10cm square (4in x 4in) or a rectangular area that covers the same surface area such as 5cm x 20cm. You are not required to swab a square or rectangle, but may be helpful for visualizing.
- **Oddly Shaped/Moving Surface** - Do your best to swab the area as thoroughly as possible to give yourself the best chance of successfully obtaining a representative sample of the surface in questions.
- **APC, EB, Total Coliform, Yeast** - When sampling for these it is especially important to sample consistently. These types of samples are best suited to be taken from flat even surfaces from where a uniform sample may be taken. Swab a 10cm x 10cm (4in x 4in) square or 1 sq. ft (12in x 12in).
- Cover the area 4 times: once swabbing in a vertical motion, then with a horizontal motion and last with the opposite diagonal motions.
- It is important that a record is kept identifying the actual area swabbed for these counts. When data is received by the laboratory, the client can then match the count with the area swabbed in house. For example, a report with an APC count of 100 cfu/swab can be matched with surface area to yield useful data (100 cfu/100cm<sup>2</sup>)



**Keep samples cool. Ship overnight or 2-day on M/T/W (morning arrival time) with ice packs.**

**All samples must have a completed COC included in shipment. Fillable version available on our website at [www.newagelaboratories.com](http://www.newagelaboratories.com).**

Science You Can Use, Partners You Can Trust

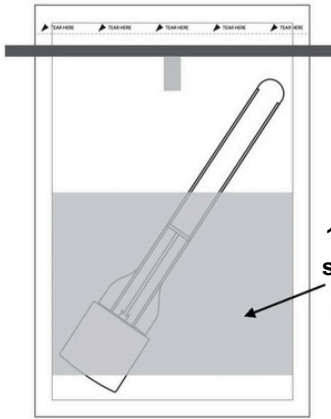
160 Veterans Blvd, South Haven, MI 49090

(269) 637-5658

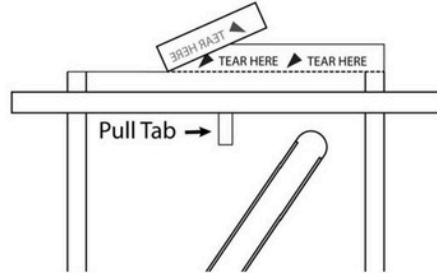
(888)-685-1628

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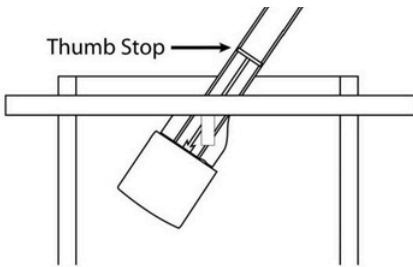
## Environmental Surface Swab



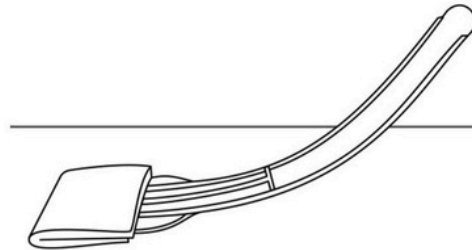
1. Label the sample bag.



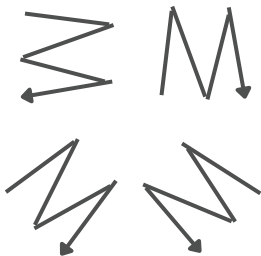
2. Tear off the top of the bag where indicated. Pull tabs to open bag. If needed, add a collection solution to hydrate the dry sponge device



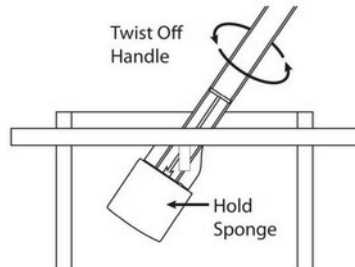
3. Keeping hands outside the bag, guide the handle out the top of the bag. Grasp the handle above the thumb stop and remove the device.



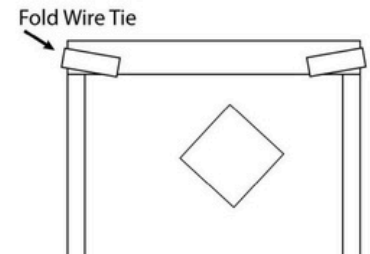
4. Press down firmly and flex the handle to ensure the entire sponge head makes full contact with the sample surface.



6. Vigorously scrub horizontally then vertically. FLIP the sampling device over. Vigorously scrub diagonally both directions across the same surface area.



7. Return sampling device to the bag. Do not insert past the thumb stop. Hold sponge from the outside of the bag and twist off the handle by turning counter-clockwise



8. Roll the top of the sample bag down several times and fold wire ties over to securely close.