

The information in this guideline is provided as a resource to enable development of a sampling plan for your operation prior to sampling and sending your samples to PrimusLabs for analysis. This is not a complete procedure however, but it is based upon the requirements of Compendium of Methods for the Microbiological Examination of Foods.

If interested in additional resources or materials, please contact a microbiologist at microbiologists@primuslabs.com.



Comments:

- Do not open sterile swabs until you start sampling.
- Samples should be taken just prior to sending them to the lab, as analysis should begin within 24 hours of sampling.
- Refrigerating swab overnight prior to sampling will help keep samples within recommended temperature range during shipping.

Note: Swabs are generally used for sampling small, irregular and/or hard-to-reach areas such as gutters, forklifts, belts, table legs, etc. They are also typically used for Quantitative Testing where an actual count is needed (e.g. Total/Aerobic Plate Counts, Generic *E. coli*, etc.).

Supplies:

Swabs, such as [3M Swab-Samplers](#)

Cooler with Gel Ice Packs/Blue Ice

Disposable Gloves (Latex or Nitrile)

Sharpie or Permanent Marker

Customers can contact us for no-charge sampling supplies at SupplyRequest@PrimusLabs.com

PROCEDURE

Preparation

1. Select the equipment surface to be sampled.
2. Mark the outside of the swab with sample identification number.
3. Put on a new pair of disposable gloves.
4. Proceed to sample area.

Collecting the Swab Samples

5. Open the swab.
6. Press out the excess solution against the interior wall of the vial with a rotating motion.
7. Hold the swab handle to make a 30° angle contact with the surface.

8. Rub the swab head slowly and thoroughly over approximately 50 cm² of surface three times, reversing direction between strokes.
9. Return the swab head to the solution vial, rinse briefly in the solution, then press out the excess.
10. Swab four more 50 cm² areas of the same surface being sampled, as above, rinsing the swab in the solution after each swabbing, and removing of excess.
11. After the areas have been swabbed, return the swab to the vial and screw the cap.
12. Repeat preparation and collecting swab sample steps 1 through 7 for each sample.

Transportation to the Laboratory

13. Place the samples into a cooler with sufficient blue ice to maintain the sample condition during transport to the laboratory facility.
14. Samples need to be analyzed within 24 hours.

The analytical results for any tested samples are representative only of the actual sample sent to PrimusLabs.com (please see the Disclaimer of Warranties provided with the final approved results or on our web site – www.primuslabs.com)