

Environmental Sample Collection Protocol Using Pre-Moistened Cellulose Sponges

1. Tear open top of sample bag at perforation.
2. Pull tabs apart at top of sample bag to open sample bag.
3. Open blue bag containing gloves along perforation at top of blue bag. Gloves are only used once and then discarded.
4. Only handle cuff portion of glove(s). Carefully place glove(s) on hand, without touching outside surface of glove(s).
5. Remove pre-moistened sponge with gloved hand.
6. Swab or wipe surface to be tested with pressure in at least two different directions (i.e. horizontally and vertically).
7. Swab or wipe 12" x 12" area of sample site if possible.
8. Return sponge to sample bag with gloved hand.
9. Remove and discard glove(s). (only used once per sample)
10. Push out air in bag by pressing on the outside of the bag.
11. Fold down top of bag approximately 6 times.
12. Close bag securely by folding wire tabs across bag.
13. Label bag with proper sample i.d. number or description.
14. Designate microbiological analyses to be performed. Numerous tests can be conducted from one sponge.
15. Store samples at refrigerated temperatures until analysis.