

Swabbing Technique Guide

Reliable data starts with consistent data gathering technique. This check list provides tips and techniques designed to help you obtain the best results.

✓ **Make sure the 3M™ Clean-Trace™ ATP Surface Test is at the proper temperature.**

Clean-Trace ATP Surface Test should be at room temperature for at least 10 minutes before use. Leave the Clean-Trace ATP Surface Test in the foil pouch until ready to use.

✓ **Handle the swab carefully to avoid contaminating with unwanted ATP.**

Remove the swab from the tube by gripping the blue handle and pulling gently. When handling the swab, take care to only touch the blue handle. Do not let the swab bud touch any surface except that which is to be sampled.

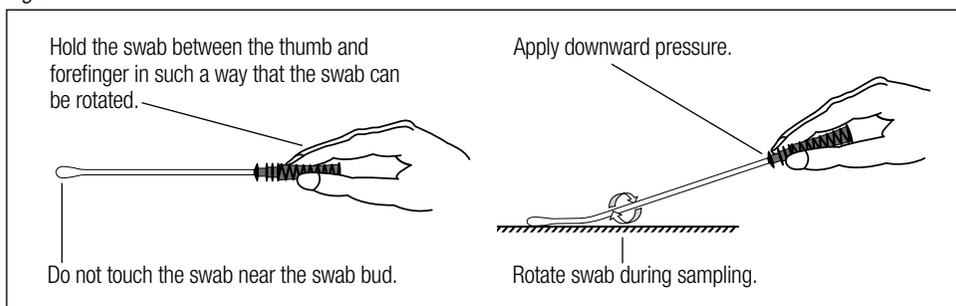
✓ **Ensure sufficient contact between the swab and the surface.**

It is essential that sufficient contact is made between the surface and the swab bud and that the entire swab bud is used; this ensures efficient loading of organic residues.

✓ **Swab vigorously.**

Apply downward pressure while simultaneously rotating the swab bud to ensure sufficient contact between the swab bud and the surface being sampled. (Figure 1)

Figure 1



Swabbing Technique Guide, continued

✓ Collect a representative sample.

Collecting a representative sample is essential to obtaining realistic and accurate information about the hygienic status of the surface being swabbed.

✓ Swab a 10cm x 10cm (4in x 4in) area.

To ensure that a representative sample is collected follow the swabbing guidelines illustrated in Figure 2.

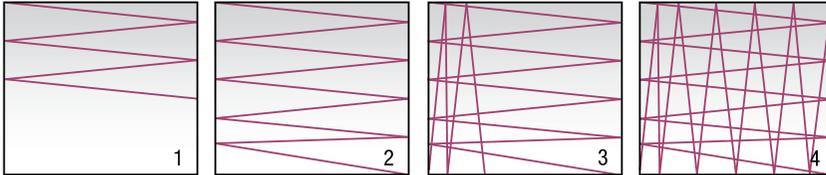


Figure 2

✓ Swab all surfaces in a consistent manner.

Swabbing should be carried out in a consistent way by ALL operators to produce reproducible results.

Irregular surfaces should be sampled so that sufficient area is swabbed and sampling is carried out in a consistent manner.

✓ Conditions to avoid:

Avoid swabbing excessively wet areas as this will dilute the sample and removes the extractant from the swab bud. If the extractant is diluted then the ATP will not be released from the cells resulting in a low reading or false negative result.

Avoid exposing the swab to direct sunlight as this causes the swab to phosphoresce resulting in a false positive result.

Avoid swabbing visibly dirty surfaces as heavy soil will reduce the signal and may produce unexpected results.

✓ Four hour activation flexibility.

When sampling is completed return the swab to the tube. DO NOT ACTIVATE THE TEST UNTIL READY TO MEASURE. The swab may be stored in the tube for up to 4 hours providing the test is not activated.

✓ Swab Storage:

For maximum shelf life, store between 2-8 degrees C (36-46 degrees F). Alternatively, swabs are stable for 28 days when stored at room temperature; for this storage option do not exceed 21 degrees C (70 degrees F). Store in pouch until time of use.

To learn more about the 3M™ Clean-Trace™ Hygiene Management System, call the 3M Health Care Helpline at 1-800-228-3957 or visit www.3M.com/infectionprevention.



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