

Wipe Sampling

Wipe sampling is a technique for assessing surface contamination. When using the appropriate wipe sampling media, coupled with an appropriate solvent, the type and amount of chemical on a particular surface can be identified by wiping a sufficient area of the surface and analyzing the wipe. This technique is a quick and easy method of determining what chemical residue is on a surface.

SAMPLING

- 1. Wearing a clean pair of powder-less gloves, create a square of 10cm x 10cm (100cm²) or a square size appropriate for your project over the area to be sampled. If the area to be sampled is in a confined area and a template cannot be used, measure the sampling area, and delineate the area to be sampled with masking tape. Results will be reported on a per "wipe" basis. It is important to note the area size in your field notes and/or on your laboratory chain-of-custody.
- 2. Remove a wipe from its container, and unfold it.
- 3. Wipe the surface to be sampled using fingertips held together and applying firm pressure. Use an overlapping 'S' pattern to cover the entire surface with horizontal strokes.
- 4. Fold the exposed side of the wipe in, and wipe the same area using vertical 'S'-strokes.
- 5. Fold the wipe again to reveal an unexposed surface, and wipe same area using vertical 'S'-strokes
- 6. Fold the wipe, exposed side in, and place it back into its original container and label the sample container; at minimum: Sample ID, Date and Time of Collection.
- 7. Remove gloves and discard. Clean gloves should be worn for each new sample.

