



## Guide on Collecting Wipe Samples of Drugs from Surfaces

### Testing for Drug Residue by Wipe Sampling

The collection of contaminants from surfaces is referred to as 'wipe sampling' and is applied as a technique to identify contamination deposition on surfaces, including those found in homes, rental properties and businesses. Wipe sampling methods may be used for detecting the presence of various compounds, such as metals, pesticides and drugs.

This guide describes a field procedure for collecting wipe samples of drug residue from surfaces. It is based on the methodology described in the NIOSH method 9111 "Methamphetamine on Wipes by LC/MS" of the NIOSH Manual of Analytical methods.

### What the Envirolab Drug Wipe Sampling Kit Includes

When testing through Envirolab Group, our team will provide you with an **Envirolab Drug Wipe Sampling Kit**.

Each kit consists of the following items necessary for collecting a sample from a surface that may be suspected to be contaminated by any illicit drug residue:

- ✓ 1 x single-use wipe
- ✓ 1 x Cardboard Template for sampling that measures 100 cm<sup>2</sup> (10 cm x 10 cm square)
- ✓ 1 x 50mL centrifuge tube (sample container after sampling)
- ✓ 1 x pair of single use Nitrile gloves

Figure 1: The Envirolab Drug Wipe Sampling Kit



Based on the NIOSH or OSHA methodology, the following steps provide a guide on collecting a surface wipe sampling.

1. Secure the Cardboard Template to the area to be wiped – to secure, place tape along outer edge of the template.
2. Make sure to wear the gloves included in the kit and remove the wipe from the pouch before you do commence sampling as per the applicable technique below.

## Wipe Sampling Techniques

### (a) Concentric Squares Wiping Technique

(suitable for smooth and non-porous surfaces)

- ✓ Without unfolding the wipe and using firm pressure, wipe the area in the template.
- ✓ Start at one of the inside corners of the template and wipe in concentric squares, progressing toward the centre.
- ✓ End with a scooping motion.
- ✓ Without allowing the wipe to touch any other surface, reverse the last fold, so the exposed side of the wipe is facing inwards.
- ✓ Using a fresh surface of the wipe, wipe the same area in the same manner as before.
- ✓ Roll or fold the wipe again and insert into the shipping container (50mL centrifuge tube). Cap the tube securely and keep refrigerated (<6°C).

### (b) Side-to-side Wiping Technique

(suitable for rough, porous, and/or soiled surface)

- ✓ Without unfolding the wipe and using firm pressure, wipe the area within the template with at least five overlapping side-to-side horizontal passes beginning at the top and progressing to the bottom in a “Z” pattern.
- ✓ Without allowing the wipe to touch any other surface, reverse the last fold so that the exposed side of the wipe is facing inwards and using a fresh surface of the wipe, wipe the area again with at least five overlapping top-to-bottom vertical passes beginning at the left side and progressing to the right in an “N” pattern.
- ✓ Roll or fold the wipe again and insert into the shipping container (50mL centrifuge tube). Cap the tube securely and keep refrigerated (<6°C).

3. While methamphetamine and several related amines are stable on the recommended wipe media for at least 7 days at room temperature, refrigeration is recommended as soon as possible.
4. Label each sample clearly with a unique sample identification number or name. Ship the samples to Envirolab in Sydney (or your local Envirolab/MPL office).

Envirolab will perform the analysis at the Sydney office, located at the below address:  
Envirolab Group, 12 Ashley St, Chatswood, NSW 2067 Australia

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CONTACT**

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