

VWR[®] SURFACE SAMPLING SPONGE & STICK

Sterile sponges in transport bags for microbiological sampling of surfaces in the food industry

These sterile sponges in bags are designed to collect microorganisms for microbiological sampling of surfaces and to detect the presence of *Listeria*, *Salmonella* and other food borne pathogenic microorganisms.

They are also suitable for testing animal carcasses for *E. coli* (USA Federal Register method).

- The sponge allows you to sample a wide surface area in comparison with normal sampling swabs
- High strength transparent transport bags that can also be used for enrichment
- Tear-off seal to guarantee sterility
- Access to hard to reach areas
- Easy handling
- In accordance with HACCP, USDA, ACIA and CFIA requirements
- Sterilised by gamma irradiation
- Dimensions: 114x229 mm - capacity: 540 ml

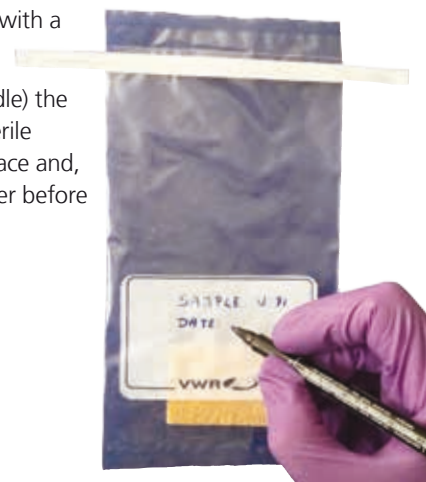
Use of surface sampling sponges with handle (Cat. No. 300-0232 and 300-0240)

1. Remove the tear-off strip and carefully take the sampling sponge by the handle.
2. The wet sponge is already on the handle; swipe it over the determined surface.
3. Press on the bottom of the handle to gently release the sponge in the sterile sampling bag.
4. Twirl the bag three times and close it with the tabs.
5. Identify the sample on the write on area with a permanent marker.

If you use a sampling sponge (without handle) the procedure is similar, but you have to use sterile gloves to take a sample rubbing of the surface and, if the sponge is dry, you have to add a buffer before using the sponge on the surface.

Note: Gloves should be worn during all sampling procedures.

300-0240
Surface sampling sponge
with handle



How to use the sampling sponge with dehydrated sponge (Cat. No. 710-1020 and 710-0860)

1. Tear off the top of bag along the perforation.
2. Use pull tabs to pull open the bag.
3. Hydrate sponge with buffer prior to removing it from the bag.
4. Take a sample by wiping the test surface with the hydrated sponge; put the sponge back into the bag when done.
5. Hold the bag by wire ends and twirl 3 to 4 times to close the bag tightly, then fold wire ends inward onto the bag.

How to use the sampling sponge with pre-moistened sponge (Cat. No. 300-0230 and 300-0231)

1. Remove the pre-moistened sponge from the aluminium pouch.
2. Take a sample by wiping the test surface with the hydrated sponge.
3. Tear off the top of bag along the perforation.
4. Use pull tabs to pull open the bag, then insert the sponge.
5. Hold bag by wire ends and twirl 3 to 4 times to close tightly, then fold wire ends inward onto the bag.

Characteristics of the buffers used in pre-moistened sponges

The primary purpose of all buffers in our pre-humidified sponges is to enable capture and then to promote growth of any bacterial

microorganisms present on the surface being sampled. These surfaces (counters, floors, walls, equipment, poultry or other meat carcass surfaces, etc), have usually been cleaned previously with disinfectant agents that may interfere with growth of bacterial colonies, therefore preventing their detection. Buffers neutralise various disinfectants, creating an environment within where microorganisms can grow. They also provide nutrients to promote bacterial growth.

The use of a dry sterile sponge (Cat. No. 710-1020) allows you to add a preferred buffer for neutralisation of disinfectant and microorganism transportation.

Neutralising buffer: Used primarily for surface sampling in food and dairy industries. Neutralises traces of chlorine or ammonium that may already be on the surface, because someone may have cleaned it earlier. These traces of cleaning product would interfere with the detection of microorganisms. With this buffer the surface is rubbed with the wet sponge, and the neutralising buffer allows microbacterial colonies to grow by neutralising the earlier mentioned cleaning products.

De-neutralising (Dey/Engley): For surface sampling in areas that were cleaned with disinfectants such as alcohols. For example, cleanroom environments, environmentally controlled areas, air monitoring systems etc. Neutralises anti-microbial chemicals for pathogen detection.

Description	Packed	Pk	Cat. No.
Surface sampling sponge, pre-moistened with neutralising buffer	5x 20	100	300-0230
Surface sampling sponge, pre-moistened with Dey/Engley		100	300-0231
Surface sampling sponge, sterile transport bag & sterile surface sampling sponge with handle, pre-moistened with neutralising buffer	10x 10	100	300-0232
Surface sampling sponge, sterile transport bag & sterile surface sampling sponge with handle, pre-moistened with Dey/Engley neutralising buffer	10x 10	100	300-0240
Surface sampling sponge, dry sponge in a bag for 450 ml volume, with gloves	4x 100	400	710-0860
Surface sampling sponge, dry sponge in a bag for 540 ml volume	4x 100	400	710-1020

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