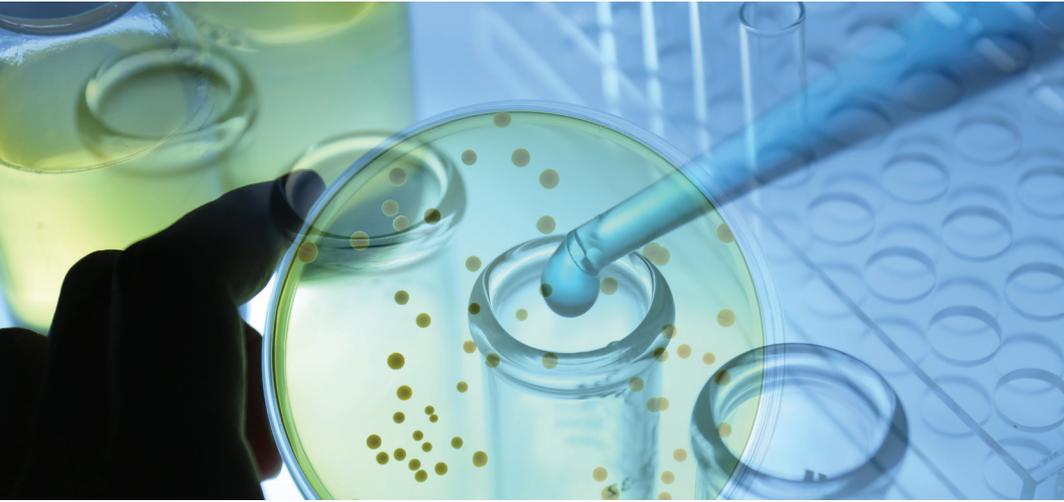


EUROFINS MICROBIOLOGY

# ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING SWABBING



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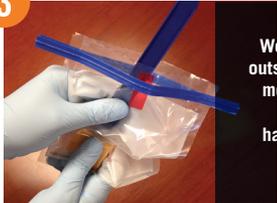
# SPONGE WITH HANDLE “SPONGESICKLE” OR “STICK-SPONGE”

A small cellulose sponge is attached to the end of a long plastic handle; the whole unit is contained in a sealed plastic bag containing a small amount of neutral buffer.

Collecting environment samples in an aseptic manner is critical to ensuring the quality of the testing results. If the person collecting the samples contaminates the specimen, the laboratory results will not accurately reflect the condition of your manufacturing environment. There are multiple commercial sampling tools available for use, but these instructions address the sponge with handle technique. Gloves are not mandatory, but highly encouraged.

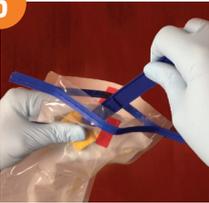
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Label the sample bags with the swabbing location for identification.
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Open the bag by pulling on the tabs on the sides of the bag. Be sure not to touch the inside or edges of the bag.
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Working from the outside of the bag, move the sponge up so that the handle protrudes from the bag.
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Using one hand, grasp the handle & remove the sponge so that it does not touch the edge of the opening.
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Thoroughly swab the area to be sampled using even back & forth motions. Swab an area of about 10x10 cm (4x4 in).
- 

Replace the sponge back into the bag only far enough so that you can grasp the sponge in one hand from the outside of the bag.
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Using your other hand, twist the sponge handle so that it separates from the sponge. Do not insert your hand into the bag.
- 

Close the bag by rolling the top down & folding in the tabs.
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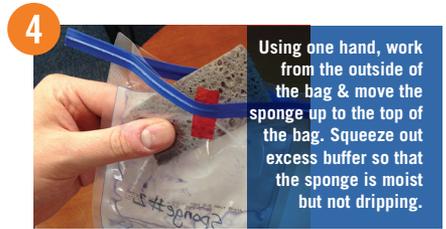
Sanitize swabbed area after sampling.
- 

Send to the lab via overnight delivery in a cooler chilled with ice packs.

# CELLULOSE SPONGE IN BAG

A small cellulose sponge is pre-moistened with a neutral buffer in a sealed bag. Often, a pair of sterile gloves is attached to the sponge bag.

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## SWAB “Q-TIP” STYLE

A small pre-moistened swab contained in a plastic covering is attached to a long plastic handle, resembling a Q-Tip.

Collecting environment samples in an aseptic manner is critical to ensuring the quality of the testing results. If the person collecting the samples contaminates the specimen, the laboratory results will not accurately reflect the condition of your manufacturing environment. There are multiple commercial sampling tools available for use, but these instructions address the swab technique. Gloves are not mandatory, but highly encouraged.



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