



# CHIP, WIPE, AND SWEEP SAMPLING

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## 1.0 SCOPE AND APPLICATION

This standard operating procedure (SOP) outlines the recommended protocol and equipment for collection of representative chip, wipe, and sweep samples to monitor potential surficial contamination.

This method of sampling is appropriate for surfaces contaminated with non-volatile species of analytes (i.e., PCB, PCDD, PCDF, metals, cyanide, etc.) Detection limits are analyte specific. Sample size should be determined based upon the detection limit desired and the amount of sample requested by the analytical laboratory. Typical sample area is one square foot. However, based upon sampling location, the sample size may need modification due to area configuration.

These are standard (i.e., typically applicable) operating procedures which may be varied or changed as required, dependent on site conditions, equipment limitations or limitations imposed by the procedure or other procedure limitations. In all instances, the ultimate procedures employed should be documented and associated with the final report.

Mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute U.S. EPA endorsement or recommendation for use.

## 2.0 METHOD SUMMARY

Since surface situations vary widely, no universal sampling method can be recommended. Rather, the method and implements used must be tailored to suit a specific sampling site. The sampling location should be selected based upon the potential for contamination as a result of manufacturing processes or personnel practices.

Chip sampling is appropriate for porous surfaces and is generally accomplished with either a hammer and chisel, or an electric hammer. The sampling device should be laboratory cleaned and wrapped in clean, autoclaved aluminum foil until ready for use. To

collect the sample, a measured and marked off area is chipped both horizontally and vertically to an even depth of 1/8 inch. The sample is then transferred to the proper sample container.

Wipe samples are collected from smooth surfaces to indicate surficial contamination; a sample location is measured and marked off. While wearing a new pair of surgical gloves, a sterile gauze pad is opened, and soaked with solvent. The solvent used is dependent on the surface being sampled. This pad is then stroked firmly over the sample surface, first vertically, then horizontally, to ensure complete coverage. The pad is then transferred to the sample container.

Sweep sampling is an effective method for the collection of dust or residue on porous or non-porous surfaces. To collect such a sample, an appropriate area is measured off. Then, while wearing a new pair of disposable surgical gloves, a dedicated brush is used to sweep material into a dedicated dust pan. The sample is then transferred to the proper sample container.

Samples collected by all three methods are then sent to the laboratory for analysis.

## 3.0 SAMPLE PRESERVATION, CONTAINERS, HANDLING, AND STORAGE

Samples should be stored out of direct sunlight to reduce photodegradation, cooled to 4°C and shipped to the laboratory performing the analysis. Appropriately sized laboratory cleaned, glass sample jars should be used for sample collection. The amount of sample required will be determined in concert with the analytical laboratory.

## 4.0 INTERFERENCES AND POTENTIAL PROBLEMS

This method has few significant interferences or problems. Typical problems result from rough porous

surfaces which may be difficult to wipe, chip, or sweep.

## 5.0 EQUIPMENT

Equipment required for performing chip, wipe, or sweep sampling is as follows:

- C Lab clean sample containers of proper size and composition
- C Site logbook
- C Sample analysis request forms
- C Chain of Custody records
- C Custody seals
- C Field data sheets
- C Sample labels
- C Disposable surgical gloves
- C Sterile wrapped gauze pad (3 in. x 3 in.)
- C Appropriate pesticide (HPLC) grade solvent
- C Medium sized laboratory cleaned paint brush
- C Medium sized laboratory cleaned chisel
- C Autoclaved aluminum foil
- C Camera
- C Hexane (pesticide/HPLC grade)
- C Iso-octane
- C Distilled/deionized water

## 6.0 REAGENTS

Reagents are not required for preservation of chip, wipe or sweep samples. However, reagents will be utilized for decontamination of sampling equipment.

## 7.0 PROCEDURES

### 7.1 Preparation

1. Determine the extent of the sampling effort, the sampling methods to be employed, and the types and amounts of equipment and supplies needed.
2. Obtain necessary sampling and monitoring equipment.
3. Decontaminate or preclean equipment, and ensure that it is in working order.
4. Prepare scheduling and coordinate with staff, clients, and regulatory agency, if appropriate.
5. Perform a general site survey prior to site entry in accordance with the site specific

Health and Safety Plan.

6. Mark all sampling locations. If required the proposed locations may be adjusted based on site access, property boundaries, and surface obstructions.

### 7.2 Chip Sample Collection

Sampling of porous surfaces is generally accomplished by using a chisel and hammer or electric hammer. The sampling device should be laboratory cleaned or field decontaminated as per the Sampling Equipment Decontamination SOP. It is then wrapped in cleaned, autoclaved aluminum foil. The sampler should remain in this wrapping until it is needed. Each sampling device should be used for only one sample.

1. Choose appropriate sampling points; measure off the designated area. Photo documentation is optional.
2. Record surface area to be chipped.
3. Don a new pair of disposable surgical gloves.
4. Open a laboratory-cleaned chisel or equivalent sampling device.
5. Chip the sample area horizontally, then vertically to an even depth of approximately 1/8 inch.
6. Place the sample in an appropriately prepared sample container with a Teflon lined cap.
7. Cap the sample container, attach the label and custody seal, and place in a plastic bag. Record all pertinent data in the site logbook and on field data sheets. Complete the sampling analysis request form and chain of custody record before taking the next sample.
8. Store samples out of direct sunlight and cool to 4EC.
9. Follow proper decontamination procedures then deliver sample(s) to the laboratory for analysis.

### 7.3 Wipe Sample Collection

Wipe sampling is accomplished by using a sterile

gauze pad, adding a solvent in which the contaminant is most soluble, then wiping a pre-determined, pre-measured area. The sample is packaged in an amber jar to prevent photodegradation and packed in coolers for shipment to the lab. Each gauze pad is used for only one wipe sample.

1. Choose appropriate sampling points; measure off the designated area. Photo documentation is optional.
2. Record surface area to be wiped.
3. Don a new pair of disposable surgical gloves.
4. Open new sterile package of gauze pad.
5. Soak the pad with solvent of choice.
6. Wipe the marked surface area using firm strokes. Wipe vertically, then horizontally to insure complete surface coverage.
7. Place the gauze pad in an appropriately prepared sample container with a Teflon-lined cap.
8. Cap the sample container, attach the label and custody seal, and place in a plastic bag. Record all pertinent data in the site logbook and on field data sheets. Complete the sampling analysis request form and chain of custody record before taking the next sample.
9. Store samples out of direct sunlight and cool to 4°C.
10. Follow proper decontamination procedures, then deliver sample(s) to the laboratory for analysis.

#### **7.4 Sweep Sample Collection**

Sweep sampling is appropriate for bulk contamination. This procedure utilizes a dedicated, hand held sweeper brush to acquire a sample from a pre-measured area.

1. Choose appropriate sampling points; measure off the designated area. Photo documentation is optional.
2. Record the surface area to be swept.

3. Don new pair of disposable surgical gloves.
4. Sweep the measured area using a dedicated brush; collect the sample in a dedicated dust pan.
5. Transfer sample from dust pan to sample container.
6. Cap the sample container, attach the label and custody seal, and place in a plastic bag. Record all pertinent data in the site log book and on field data sheets. Complete the sampling analysis request form and chain of custody record before taking the next sample.
7. Store samples out of direct sunlight and cool to 4°C.
8. Leave contaminated sampling device in the sample material, unless decontamination is practical.
9. Follow proper decontamination procedures, then deliver sample(s) to the laboratory for analysis.

### **8.0 CALCULATIONS**

Results are usually provided in mg/g, µg/g, mass per unit area, or other appropriate measurement. Calculations are typically done by the laboratory.

### **9.0 QUALITY ASSURANCE/ QUALITY CONTROL**

The following general quality assurance procedures apply:

1. All data must be documented on standard chain of custody forms, field data sheets or within the site logbook.
2. All instrumentation must be operated in accordance with operating instructions as supplied by the manufacturer, unless otherwise specified in the work plan. Equipment checkout and calibration activities must occur prior to sampling/operation, and they must be documented.

The following specific quality assurance activities apply to wipe samples:

For wipe samples, a blank should be collected for each sampling event. This consists of a sterile gauze pad, wet with the appropriate solvent, and placed in a prepared sample container. The blank will help identify potential introduction of contaminants via the sampling methods, the pad, solvent or sample container. Spiked wipe samples can also be collected to better assess the data being generated. These are prepared by spiking a piece of foil of known area with a standard of the analyte of choice. The solvent containing the standard is allowed to evaporate, and the foil is wiped in a manner identical to the other wipe samples.

Specific quality assurance activities for chip and sweep samples should be determined on a site specific basis.

## **10.0 DATA VALIDATION**

A review of the quality control samples will be conducted and the data utilized to qualify the environmental results.

## **11.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY**

When working with potentially hazardous materials, follow EPA, OSHA and corporate health and safety procedures.

## **12.0 REFERENCES**

U.S. EPA, A Compendium of Superfund Field Operation Methods. EPA/540/5-87/001.

NJDEP Field Sampling Procedures Manual, February, 1988.