



SWAB SAMPLE COLLECTION AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Fill in the **PathWest Food Hygiene Laboratory Swab Request Form [S] (Form MFHW042)** with the following information:

- Company Name, Address and Contact Details
- Date Sampled and Sampled By/Signature
- Purchase Order No. (if applicable)
- Additional Sample Comments
- Testing Required (select tests required):
 - a. Aerobic Plate Count
 - b. *Escherichia coli* Count
 - c. *Listeria monocytogenes* Detection
 - d. *Salmonella* Detection
- Sender's No. (your sample reference number, if applicable)
- Site Description (description of area/item/utensil swabbed)
- Area Swabbed (select one):
 - a. 10cm x10cm (equivalent to 100cm²)
 - b. Item (e.g. door knob, piping bag, tap)
 - c. Utensil (e.g. spoon, ladle, knife)
 - d. Area swabbed other than all of the above (e.g. 5cm x 5cm, 25cm²)

Note: For Aerobic Plate Count and *E. coli* Count, record the exact measurement of the area swabbed expressed in cm² or cm x cm, e.g. 100 cm², 10cm x 10cm. For items and utensils that cannot be measured, swab the entire surface area and record "Item" or "Utensil" as the area swabbed.

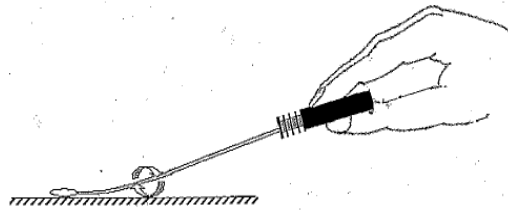
2. Refer to pages 2/3 for the swab sampling procedure. One swab per test must be provided as detailed below:

Test Requested	Swab Sample Required
a. Aerobic Plate Count and/or <i>E. coli</i> Count	1 x NRS II Transwab in Neutralising Rinse Solution or 1 x Environmental Flexi Swab or 1 x Sponge Swab
b. <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> Detection	1 x NRS II Transwab in Neutralising Rinse Solution or 1 x Environmental Flexi Swab or 1 x Sponge Swab
c. <i>Salmonella</i> Detection	1 x NRS II Transwab in Neutralising Rinse Solution or 1 x Environmental Flexi Swab or 1 x Sponge Swab

3. If submitting more than 6 swabs, please contact the laboratory at least 4 hours prior to collection to ensure adequate media is available for testing.
4. Ensure that each swab is labelled with date of collection and site description prior to use and that the information on the swab matches the request form.
5. The following swabbing equipment is supplied by PathWest and can be requested by completing the **PathWest FHL Supply Order Form (Form MFHW118)** and sending the completed form to the laboratory by email: foods.pathwest@health.wa.gov.au or fax: (08) 9381 7139:
- NRS II Transwab in Neutralising Rinse Solution (10mL)
 - Environmental Flexi Swab
 - Dehydrated Sponge in whirlpak bag and 0.1% Peptone Salt Solution (25mL)
 - Sterile Swabbing Template (10cm x 10cm), foam eskies, and ice bricks
6. Deliver the swab samples by 3:00 pm, Monday - Friday to:
**PathWest Food Hygiene Laboratory
Level 2, J Block, QEII Medical Centre, Hospital Avenue, Nedlands 6009**
7. The swab samples must be transported in an esky with chilled ice brick and submitted to the laboratory within 24 hours of collection.
8. For any queries, please contact:
- **Rebecca Wake (Scientist-in-Charge)**
Email: Rebecca.wake@health.wa.gov.au
Phone: (08) 6457 2165
 - **Food Hygiene Laboratory**
Email: foods.pathwest@health.wa.gov.au
Phone: (08) 6457 2169

NRS II AND FLEXI SWAB SAMPLING INSTRUCTIONS

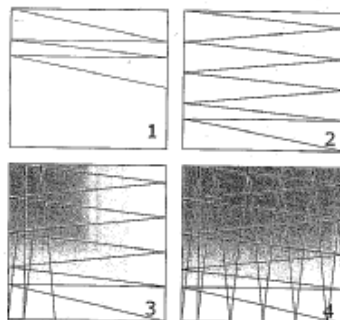
1. Wearing clean, disposable gloves, aseptically remove the sterile swab from the container. Use the cap as the handle.
2. Remove the excess hydrating solution by pressing the swab against the interior wall of the container in a rotating motion.
3. Hold the swab at 30° angle against the surface area when sampling.



4. a. For Aerobic Plate Count and *Escherichia coli* Count:

1) Swabbing Surfaces Using the 10cm x 10cm (100cm²) Template:

Using firm pressure, rub the swab slowly from left to right, up and down, and diagonally. Reverse the direction between strokes and rotate the swab to cover the whole area in the 100cm² template as shown below:



2) Swabbing Items and Utensils (e.g. door knob, tap, knife, ladle, spoon):

Using firm pressure, rub the swab slowly three times over the entire surface of the item or utensil, reversing the direction each time.

b. For *Listeria monocytogenes* and *Salmonella* Detection:

Swab as large an area as possible.

5. Place the swab back into the container and seal completely to ensure no leakage occurs during transport.
6. The swab samples must be transported in an esky with chilled ice bricks and submitted to the laboratory within 24 hours of collection.



SPONGE SWAB SAMPLING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Put on a pair of clean, disposable gloves and carefully tear open the whirlpak bag and add half of the 25mL 0.1% Peptone Salt Solution.
2. Reclose the whirlpak bag and gently massage the sponge to ensure it is well hydrated.
3. While the whirlpak bag is still closed, carefully work the sponge to the top of the bag and squeeze any excess fluid from the sponge.
4. Wipe the sponge over the desired area, working 10 times horizontally and 10 times vertically.
5. Carefully place the sponge back into the whirlpak bag and add the remaining half of the 25mL 0.1% Peptone Salt Solution.
6. Reseal the whirlpak bag by folding down multiple times and then closing with the tie.