

WIPE, Test Code 1006-Total Bacterial Count w/ Identification

A bacterial culture can be performed on a surface by using a sterile transporter swab or wipe. In addition to moist areas, dry areas can be sampled using a Stuarts transporting swab.

1. Crush the ampoule in the bottom of the sterile tube and place swab in tube to moisten.
2. Remove both swabs of the double system and sample the affected surface by rolling both swabs vigorously over the area. Indicate on the chain of custody the surface area sampled in either in² or cm².
3. Label all samples appropriately and submit to the laboratory for analysis in a timely manner. *Swabs should be refrigerated if the samples are not immediately sent to the lab. A cold pack and cooler should be used during the warm months.

References:

Dillon, H. Kenneth, L. Hung, J. Miller, Field Guide for the Determination of Biological Contaminants in Environmental Samples., 5.2.6.6:61, 7.1: 141-143 (2005).

Macher, Janet, Sc.D., M.P.H., Bioaerosols , 7.4.1.2, 18.1.4.2 (1999).

NIOSH Manual of Analytical Methods (NMAM), Fourth Edition Method 0800 January 15, 1998.