

BULK, Test Code 2070-Cat Allergens Analysis

Sites of dust collection should take into consideration where the client spends most of their time. It is important that the quantity of fine dust collected is sufficient for laboratory analysis; therefore a sample at least 1/4 to 1/2 of a teaspoon should be collected. No conscious effort should be taken to avoid the collection of sand, human and animal hair, textile fibers, lint, human dander, or insect parts; since these may contain allergens. For practical reasons, vacuum the mattress first, upholstered furniture second, and then the floors. If carpet is not present, vacuum the bare floor adjacent to a major item of upholstered furniture and in corners where insects may reside. In office setting, vacuum any flat surface area such as desk, file cabinet, or carpet.

1. Collection is most easily performed by using a phase contrast microscopy cassette or PCM.
2. Remove the red stopper from funnel side of PCM cassette and attach vinyl tubing from a 15L pump.
3. Remove black bottom cover from intake side of PCM cassette. Use this side to vacuum sample.
4. Vacuum enough area in order to ensure approximately 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon of dust on filter.
5. Once collection is completed, replace red stopper and black cover of PCM cassette and label specimen.
6. Complete Chain of Custody and deliver specimens to laboratory.

References:

Dillon, H. Kenneth, L. Hung, J. Miller, Field Guide for the Determination of Biological Contaminants in Environmental Samples., 8.5: 214-217 (2005).