

Allergen Sampling Guide

Sampling should be performed where people spend the most time or where people sleep, such as bedrooms or family rooms. Only one dust collector should be used per room. The MITEST collector should be used to collect bedroom dust from the carpeted floor surfaces by the bed or if the room is not carpeted, vacuum the surface area of the mattress and/or pillows. It is very important that an adequate amount of dust is collected to be tested. Make sure that the white bag portion of the MITEST collector is at least half full of dust.

Procedure for Collecting Samples Using a MITEST collector (dust collector)

1. Remove the dust collector trap from envelopes.
2. Insert the plastic filter tube into the MITEST collector, through the opening at the angled end.
3. Attach the collector to the vacuum cleaner hose or tube.
4. Fold excess collector trap around outside of hose and reattach vacuum cleaner accessory making sure the dust collector trap is secure.
5. Turn on the vacuum cleaner and vacuum 4 separate areas (each 8 ½"x 11"- paper-size) for 30 seconds each (total sampling time, 2 minutes; total area sampled is about 1 square meter).
6. Stop when the collector is ½ full, as 100mg of dust is required for allergen analysis.
7. Remove the filter tube containing the dust sample and place it in a small Ziploc bag or envelope. Lab the bag with your sample name or code.
8. Rinse the MITEST collector with water and dry it with a paper towel.
9. Place a clean filter inside the collector for repeat sampling or for taking another sample.

Procedure for Submitting Samples

1. Fill out the Chain of Custody Form completely and indicate which tests are requested.
2. Ship the samples on ice to Forensic Analytical in an air tight Ziploc bag or a sealed plastic vial with the sample numbers clearly marked on the bag with a permanent marker. Turnaround time is 6-10 business days.
3. Send samples to:

Procedure for Collecting Samples Using an MCE or PVC filter

1. Use a 37mm, three piece filter cassette and a Polycarbonate (PVC) or Mixed Cellulose Ester (MCE) filter. A pore size of .8 µm is recommended.
2. Connect the cassette to a high volume vacuum source running 10-20 liters per minute.
3. Open the cassette cover and turn on the pump.
4. Use the cassette to vacuum dust from pillows, blankets, sheets, mattress, carpet, window covers, upholstery, office furniture and partition dividers.
5. Vacuum an item for at least 5 minutes or until ½ teaspoon of dust is collected in the cassette.
6. Remove the cassette, cover it, and seal the entire cassette with a piece of masking tape to prevent the cassette from becoming open during shipping.

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