

# Sampling

## Why is sampling important?

The test kits in our catalog are great — but they aren't magic. All tests rely on you, the user, to select an appropriate sample and test it correctly. Poor sampling can lead to product mix-ups, cross-contact problems, recalls, and health risks for consumers. So what's an appropriate sample? One that correctly represents the larger product or environment. Read on for some best practices and helpful tips.



## Sample Collection Explained

### Product Testing

#### What is a good sample?



Gluten and allergens often appear as 'hot spots'; do not assume they will be evenly disbursed.

Make sure to run multiple samples. This can mean multiple bags, batches, or pallets; various physical spots within a given batch; and/or product from several time stamps in the production run.

Composite samples may be warranted. In these cases, be sure to blend thoroughly prior to testing.

**Note!** If your matrix has distinct components, either test components separately, or ensure your composite sample contains them all.

#### How big should my sample be?



We suggest reserving 250-500g per sample. While most tests only require 0.5-2g of sample, you should be prepared to run multiple tests and/or to send out for third-party testing. Additionally, some facilities retain samples as a precaution.

#### How do I measure the sample for my test?



Read your kit's instructions; sample size varies by kit and by matrix. Many kits include measuring spoons, but use a scale or calibrated pipette for the most accurate results.

Using too much or too little sample risks over- or under-estimating the amount of allergen present in the product.

### Environmental Testing

#### How many locations should I swab?



There is no one-size-fits-all answer. At a minimum, test each surface texture (stainless steel, mesh, plastic, etc.) and each matrix consistency (pieces, powders, pastes, liquids, etc.)

**Note!** Vary your test locations. Repeatedly testing the same area — or only testing easy-to-reach areas — can lead to problems.

#### How do I take a good sample?



If indicated, moisten the swab bulb before testing dry surfaces. Use gentle pressure to ensure the swab bulb or strip end come in full contact with the surface. Test in a cross-hatch pattern: left to right, up and down, and diagonally over the same location. If using a swab: rotate the swab bulb to ensure 360° of contact.

**Note!** Ensure the precise location of each swab is documented. This way, you can recognize patterns and take corrective actions as needed.

#### What if I'm testing multiple allergens at once?



Don't re-swab the same exact location for a second test. Either use a kit that allows shared extraction for multiple allergens (e.g. OnSite® III Allergen) or test an adjacent area.

## Top Tips

### Mix it up.

Allergen cross-contact is rarely homogenous. Test multiple batches or locations, and/or run careful composites, to minimize the risk of missing out.

### Include your inclusions.

Layers? Fillings? Parts and pieces? If your product has distinct components, be sure to test them all.

### Measure Like You Mean It.

Spoons are helpful... sometimes. Because density varies wildly between products, the most reliable measurements come from a scale or calibrated pipette. When in doubt, weigh it.

### Bigger Samples = Better Choices Later.

Hold 250-500g in reserve. Future you will thank you when you need to:

- rerun a test right away
- send out for third-party confirmation
- show an auditor retained samples
- investigate a customer complaint

### Wondering which tests are right for you?

Let our team match you with the kits that will best suit your facility. Whatever you need, our catalog has something for you.

