

Instructions for Collecting Dust by Swiffer Cloth

The Swiffer cloth provides an alternative way to collect dust for ERMI or HERTSMI2 analysis. Use Swiffer cloths to take dust samples where the standard vacuuming procedure cannot be recommended, such as hard surfaces, carpet exposed to heavy traffic; or in hard to reach places and on timber, tile and linoleum floors.

NB: Combining basement or crawl space dusts with upstairs living space samples is discouraged. Also Sterile Swiffer cloths are provided by NSJ Enviro – they have been Gamma sterilised to remove background contamination, so using standard wipes from the cleaning industry is not recommended.

1. Before starting the process, identify the surfaces with visible dust, **avoiding areas where you see visible mould growth**, as this may bias the result. Areas worth sampling are :
 - Surfaces of tables, chairs, bookshelves, cabinets, etc.
 - On the top of the door, cubical divider, blackboard, door-frame, window-frame and the top surfaces of fluorescent lights.
 - On top of electronic devices such as monitor screens, printers, computers and telephones.
 - Tops of window and door architraves, tops of doors, upper walls, and other untouched areas above the floor. Avoid window sills where condensation may collect and distort the reading and low level surfaces like floors and skirting boards.

Please wear clean gloves before handling the cloth. Take a Swiffer Cloth out of its plastic bag and wipe it on the selected area(s) of the dusty surface(s) to be tested. For multiple surface areas, hold the cloth and wipe the first area. The dust should be visible on the cloth. Move to next selected area and wipe the dusty surface onto the next clean area of the cloth, and so on.

Wipe in one direction only, with the swipe being approx 1 metre in length. Ten different locations are recommended. **Make sure you are folding the cloth to a clean section when wiping each location and please also avoid rubbing/scrubbing the surface or wiping in a circular motion.**

2. Please collect enough dust – enough is when you can see dust on it (i.e. visible dust covering at least 50% of the cloth) because the lab needs at least 5 mg of dust for a valid analysis.
3. Fold up the cloth and reseal it in its plastic bag. Write your sample name/information/order number on the bag with a marker.
4. Make a note of the sampled areas & fill in all the necessary information on the Chain-of-Custody (COC) form supplied.
5. Send the bag(s) back to NSJ EnviroSciences at the address on the Chain of Custody for testing

***NB: The samples you want in one analysis should be on one cloth.** If you want (for example) three analyses, then the dust for each analysis should be on three different cloths and returned in different bags, but the price increases as the number of analyses increases.