Uncover Hidden Risks: The Power of Vector Swabbing

Vector swabbing is a targeted environmental sampling method designed to trace the origin and map the spread of microbial contamination. When a presumptive or confirmed positive result is detected, swabs are collected in a starburst or circular pattern around the affected site to assess the reach of contamination. Advanced pathogen detection systems and reliable sample collection tools enhance this critical process by delivering accurate, actionable insights that empower food safety teams to respond swiftly and effectively.

Why It Matters:

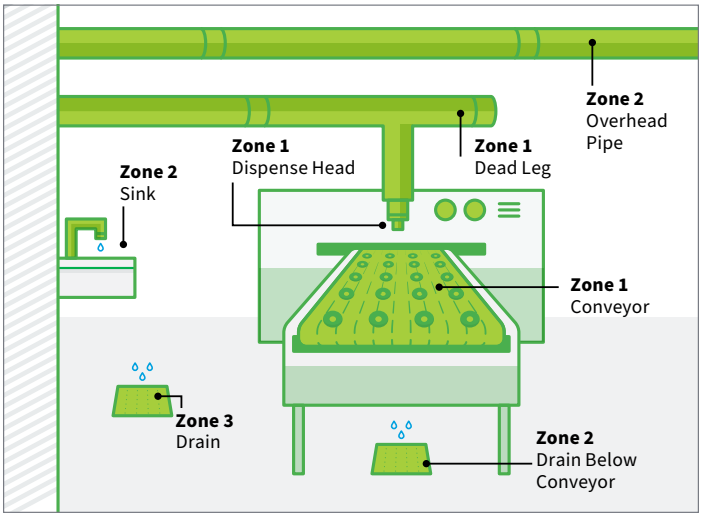
Proactive Contamination Control

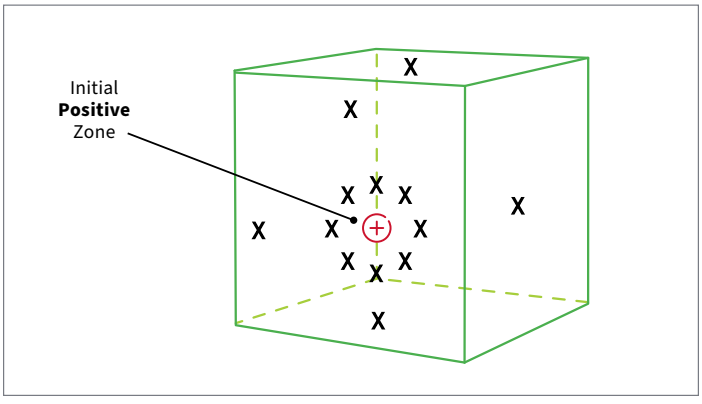
- Tracks contamination sources and pathways
- Verifies effectiveness of corrective actions
- Strengthens preventive controls
- Helps contain contamination and prevent recontamination
- Protects consumer safety

Where Vector Swabbing Makes the Difference

Sampling focuses on high-risk “vector” areas, including:

- Transition zones (e.g., between raw and ready-to-eat areas)
- High-touch surfaces (e.g., door handles, equipment interfaces)
- Moisture-prone areas (e.g., drains, valves)
- Historical hotspots (areas with previous contamination)





When you find a positive, start at its location and test outward in a systematic pattern to identify the contamination source or any spread to other areas.

Performing Effective Vector Swabbing

To perform effective vector swabbing begin by ensuring all materials are prepared and sterile, including labeled swabs or sponges with appropriate neutralizing solutions, gloves, and a clean cooler with ice packs for sample transport. This process is critical for detecting potential contamination sources and must follow a consistent, validated technique to ensure reliable results and compliance with food safety protocols.

Equipped for Safety:

Tools to Uncover Harborage Sites

Description	SKU | Catalog Number	Qty
Neogen® Molecular Detection Assay *Listeria* Right Now	700007660 | MDALRN96	96
Neogen® Molecular Detection Assay *Listeria* spp.	700002150 | MDA2LIS96	96
Neogen® Molecular Detection Assay *Salmonella*	700002157 | MDA2SAL96	96
Neogen® Petrifilm® Environmental *Listeria* Plates	700002233 | 6447	50
	700002232 | 6448	200
Neogen® Environmental Scrub Sampler Stick w/ 10 mL Wide Spectrum Neutralizer	700002338 | ESS10WSN	100
Neogen® Sponge Stick with 10mL NB	700002003 | SSL10NB	100
Neogen® Sponge Stick with 10mL DE	700002076 | SSL10DE	100
Neogen® Sponge Stick with 10mL Letheen	700002109 | SSL10LET	100
Neogen® Quick Swab	700002200 | 6432	50
	700002007 | 6433	250
Neogen® Enviro Swab	700002282 | ENVSWB100	100
Neogen® Swab Sampler with 10mL NB	700002040 | RS96010NB	100
Neogen® Swab Sampler with 10mL DE	700002014 | RS96010DE	100
Neogen® Swab Sampler with 10mL Letheen	700002039 | RS96010LET	100

Learn more about pathogen testing at info.neogen.com/MDS

Vector Swabbing Flowchart

Presumptive or confirmed positive detected?

Evaluate the area where contamination was found.

Define testing sites that will be evaluated utilizing a starburst pattern around the initial positive site. Include vertical surfaces if applicable. Determine the number of sites based on risk and area complexity.

Assemble sampling materials (Sterile sponges/ swabs, gloves, labels, container).

Label sponges / swabs with relevant site information.

Initiate vector swabbing, collecting individual samples, following the defined sampling plan.

Seal samples and place in a clean container.

Transport samples to lab immediately.

Refrigerate samples if not processed right away / Ensure testing occurs within 24–48 hours of collection.

Test samples.

Review results, initiate corrective actions and repeat as needed

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