

EZ Reach™ Sponge Sampler Instructions Patent Pending

1. Open the sample bag by first tearing off the top plastic strip where indicated, and then use the white pull tabs to open the mouth of the bag.



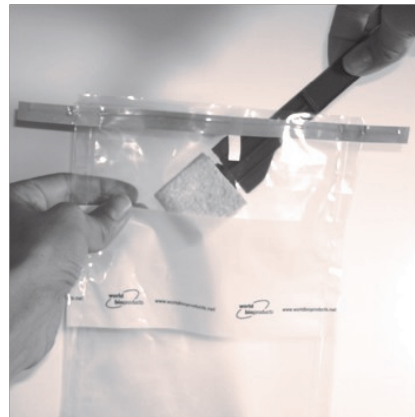
2. Keeping your hands on the outside of the bag, push the EZ Reach handle out of the bag. Grasp the handle above the central crossing rib on the handle and remove the EZ Reach Sampler from the bag.



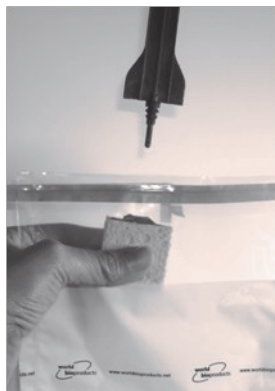
3. Rub the sponge paddle vigorously over the surface area to be analyzed.



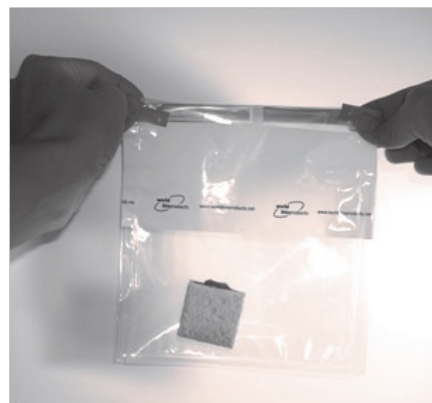
4. After sampling is complete, insert the sponge portion into the original sample bag. Do not insert the handle beyond the central crossing rib, and do not touch the inside of bag with your hand.



5. With your hands on the outside of the bag, pinch the sponge while turning the EZ Reach handle in a **counter-clockwise** direction one half turn, until it disengages. Discard handle.



6. Fold down the top of the bag several times and secure closure using the wire ties.



Please note: The EZ Reach Sponge Sampler is designed for easy sample collection and processing in the laboratory. When using the EZ Reach Sponge Sampler for quantitative work, the sample bag containing the sponge and diluent can be placed directly into a Stomacher® Paddle Blender or comparable paddle blender device for the purpose of suspending cells collected on the sponge.

When the EZ Reach Sponge Sampler is used for pathogen testing, it is necessary that the sterile enrichment broth be added directly to the sample bag. Alternatively, if a separate container is used for enrichment, it is recommended that the sponge be added to an enrichment broth that has previously been prepared in a container with an autoclavable polypropylene liner.

Steam sterilization at 121°C to decontaminate the broth after the enrichment step has been completed will result in a release of the non-toxic adhesive used to attach the sponge to the plastic handle. This adhesive may coat the inside surface of a container and make clean-up difficult.