

DIRECT MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION

Bulk

- Bulk samples generally include building materials only. These can be the paper part of gypsum board, insulation, wood, leather, carpet, carpet backing.
- Materials should be small in size (suggested less than 3 in x 3 in)
- Materials should be placed inside a clear plastic sandwich bag (any size) and sealed.
- Mark the bag and the COC.
- Keep the material in a cool dry place out of the sunlight until delivered to the laboratory.



Black mold on gypsum board

Bulks are very useful to identify fungi to the genus level. The material can also be used for culture of viable fungi.

Swab

- Swabs are for use in hard to reach areas where surfaces may not be flat enough to press a tape slide onto.
- The area swabbed should be indicative of what the entire surface looks like. Whenever possible, a measured area (in², cm²) should be entirely swabbed and the amount of area entered on the COC.
- Sample location should be marked on the swab enclosure.
- To use the swab, squeeze the bottom of the enclosure to saturate the swab with the buffer enclosed. Remove the swab and rub it over the area of interest. Place the swab back in the enclosure and store in a cool dry place until delivery to the laboratory.



Swabs have a dual use, in that they can be used for direct microscopic exams and can be saved for a short period of time in case culture of viable fungi is requested.

Tape

- Clear tape samples are to be used for flat surfaces only, where suspected mold is present.
- Tape can be submitted in various forms, as long as it is clear.
- only a one in² area of the tape will be examined, therefore, be sure to press the tape on an area that is typical of what you suspect is fungi.
- If using the Zefon Bio-tape, just press the sticky area of the tape on the surface of interest.
- If using just tape, fold the ends where you will grasp the tape and then press the center of the tape of the area of interest. Place tape on a microscope slide or inside of a clear sandwich bag.
- There is no special storage or shipping instructions for tape samples until they reach the lab.



Tape samples can be used to identify fungi to the genus level.

Tape samples should never be used for clearance testing. The only appropriate samples for clearance, are viable culture and spore trap.