



Preparing Solid Samples R-CARD™ Reference Guide

Solid samples can be tested with R-CARD™ products after proper preparation. It is necessary to blend samples such as cheese, species, ground meat, fruits, vegetables, etc., with a diluent before dispensing on the R-CARD™.

Method 1: Preparing Sample by Blending

Supplies Needed: R-CARD™ test card, sterile dropper or syringe, sterile diluent, blender

1. Weigh a given amount of the sample material (IE. 10 grams)
2. Place sample material in sterile blender
3. Add sterile diluent to blender (IE. 1000 mL of 0.1% peptone or deionized water)
4. Put lid on blender and mix for 2 minutes
5. Remove 1 mL of the sample and dispense underneath the plastic film onto the middle of the base of the R-CARD™
6. Let plastic film fall over the sample
7. Sample will naturally spread in a circular fashion and gel within 1-2 minutes

Method 2: Preparing Sample by Massaging

Supplies Needed: R-CARD™ test card, sterile dropper or syringe, sterile diluent, sterile bag

1. Weigh a given amount of the sample material (IE. 10 grams)
2. Place sample material in sterile bag
3. Add sterile diluent to bag (IE. 1000 mL of 0.1% peptone or deionized water)
4. Close the bag and “massage” for two minutes to assure thorough mixing
5. Remove 1 mL of the sample and dispense underneath the plastic film onto the middle of the base of the R-CARD™
6. Let plastic film fall overtop the sample
7. Sample will naturally spread in a circular fashion and gel within 1-2 minutes

Next place R-CARD™ test card(s) into an incubator at the desired temperature for incubation until the growth of colonies can be easily counted. Depending on the R-CARD™ product, this will take 24-48 hours.

If the number of colonies present on the test are too numerous to count (TNTC), we recommend diluting the liquid sample to a dilution that yields approximately 20-150 colonies for ease of accurately counting the colonies. For more detailed information on dilutions, reference our dilution guide, [Understanding Dilution: A Guide for Working with Dilutions](#), on our website.