

D-I-Y TAPE SAMPLES

By: The Great Indoors

WHEN TO TAKE TAPE SAMPLES

- If you see active mold growth.
- If you smell mold strongly.
- If you have had a recent water leak.
- If you have noticed prolonged health symptoms unrelated to colds/flu/allergies.

WHERE TO TAKE TAPE SAMPLES

- You should not take samples on surfaces that have been cleaned recently as there will not be a large enough amount of material present to get a decent representation of mold spores present. You should take samples:
- Where dust accumulates easily, such as windowsills, tops of furniture, appliances, pictures, shelves, and baseboard.
- Of any mold growth or discolorations you see.
- Where there has been a recent water leak.

HOW TO PREPARE THE TAPE SAMPLE

You've decided you want a sample analyzed and you've picked out the spots you're going to sample. Now what? You'll need some gloss finish transparent tape and a ziplock bag. The tape cannot be matte finish, it has to be completely transparent. The size bag you need will depend on the number of samples you are sending.

Take a piece of tape and fold it so that you have about an inch of untouched sticky side and about an inch of folded tape to grip. I know that sounds confusing, so I took some pictures and a short video showing how to do it on the next few slides.



CORRECT TAPE

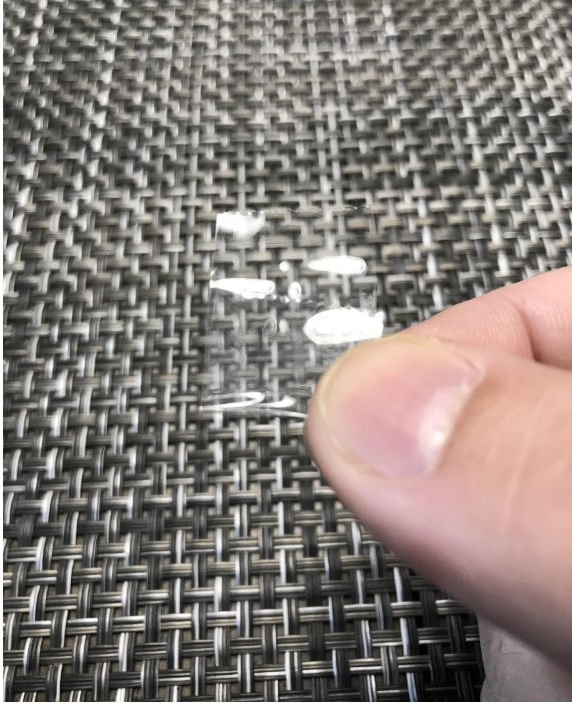


Make sure your tape is completely transparent, or I won't be able to analyze the samples.

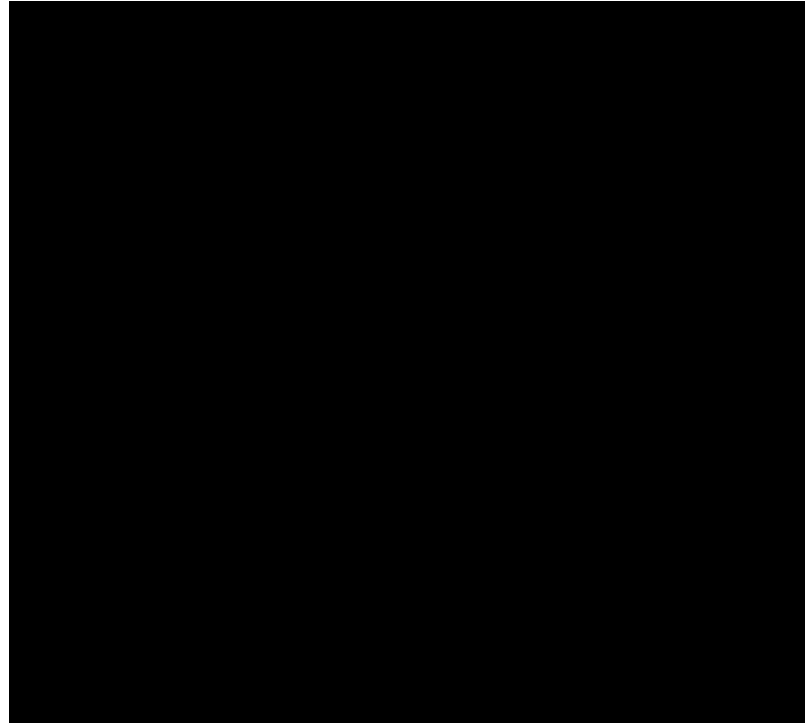
WRONG TAPE



FOLDING THE TAPE



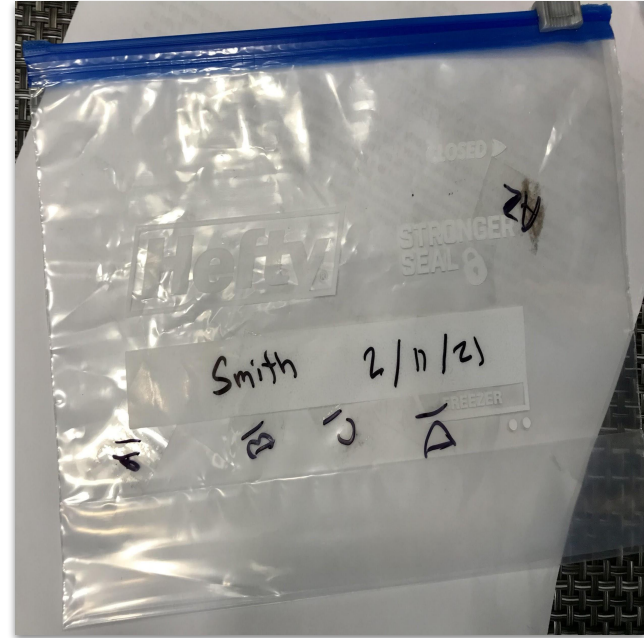
Try not to have any wrinkles in the tape so it can lay flat. Be sure not to touch the sticky part or it will pick up your skin cells and occlude the samples.



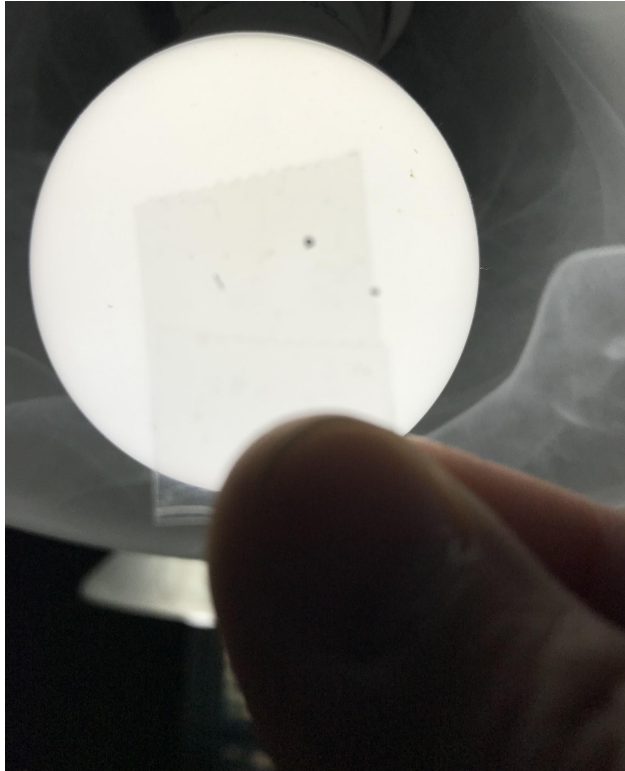
TAKING AND STORING THE SAMPLES



Lay the tape down on the spot you want to sample. Apply some slight pressure. Peel the tape off, place it in a ziplock bag, and label it with your name and the date it was taken using permanent marker.



GOOD SAMPLE



You want to be able to see some debris on the sample, but too much will make it very difficult to analyze.

BAD SAMPLE



TIPS

- ★ It's extremely hard to fold the tape without touching it at all, but the area that will be the sample needs to be untouched as much as possible. Even after you take the sample, be sure not to touch it as you place it in the bag. Make sure it lays flat when you put it in the bag.
- ★ Only place the tape in one spot for a sample. Don't sample many places with the same piece of tape.
- ★ The samples should not be touching in the bag and make sure they stay where you place them so they don't get mixed up.
- ★ If you're testing an area with active mold growth or that is very dirty, it will be very hard to get a sample that's not fully occluded. If you can't get a sample that can be seen through, then leave part of the sample clear.
- ★ Make sure the samples don't get folded, it makes them very hard to analyze. You can fold the bag they are in as long as the crease doesn't go across any of the samples.

MAIL THE SAMPLES

First print this order form and fill it out, then put it with the bag of your samples into an envelope and send it to:

The Great Indoors

325 Glen Arbor Loop

Irmo, SC 29063

FEES AND PAYMENTS

I charge a base charge of \$15, then \$10 per sample. For example: 1 sample= \$25, 5 samples= \$65

Once your samples are analyzed and your report is finalized you will receive an invoice at the email address you provided on your order form. Once you invoice is paid, you will be sent your report. The invoice will include a link to pay with a card online, or you can mail us a check to the same address (it's also on the invoice).

I look forward to being of service to you!

CONTACT

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