



# Product Instructions 6432/6433

  **Quick Swab**



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# Product Instructions

## Quick Swab

### Product Description and Intended Use

The 3M™ Quick Swab is a ready-to-use environmental swab system that can be used wet or dry, and it is intended to be used in the food and beverage industry for surface sampling. 3M Quick Swab is designed to be used in conjunction with any 3M™ Petrifilm™ Plate or other culture media. The 3M Quick Swab uses a sodium bisulfite-free letheen broth to facilitate the recovery of bacteria and will deliver approximately 1.0 mL of sample if used in the prescribed manner.

3M Quick Swabs are aseptically filled, and gamma irradiated.

3M Food Safety is certified to ISO (International Organization for Standardization) 9001 for design and manufacturing.

### Safety

The user should read, understand, and follow all safety information in the instructions for the 3M Quick Swab. Retain the safety instructions for future reference.

**⚠ CAUTION** Indicates a hazardous situation, which, if not avoided, could result in minor or moderate injury and/or property damage.

### ⚠ CAUTIONS

- The 3M Quick Swab does not contain any indicator dyes. Therefore, it alone will not detect bacterial colonies.
- The 3M Quick Swab must be used with a plating media such as 3M Petrifilm Plates.
- The 3M Quick Swab has not been tested with all possible food processing sanitation products.
- Do not use the 3M Quick Swab in the diagnosis of conditions in humans or animals.
- Do not use the 3M Quick Swab more than once.
- The user must train its personnel in proper testing techniques, for example: Good Laboratory Practices<sup>(1)</sup> ISO 7218<sup>(2)</sup> or ISO 17025<sup>(3)</sup>.
- Consult the Safety Data Sheet for additional information.
- For information on documentation of product performance, visit our website at [www.3M.com/foodsafety](http://www.3M.com/foodsafety) or contact your local 3M representative or distributor.

### User Responsibility

Users are responsible for familiarizing themselves with product instructions and information. Visit our website at [www.3M.com/foodsafety](http://www.3M.com/foodsafety), or contact your local 3M representative or distributor for more information.

When selecting a test method, it is important to recognize that external factors such as sampling methods, testing protocols, sample preparation, handling, and laboratory technique may influence results. The food sample itself may influence results.

It is the user's responsibility in selecting any test method or product to evaluate a sufficient number of samples with the appropriate matrices and microbial challenges to satisfy the user that the chosen test method meets the user's criteria.

It is also the user's responsibility to determine that any test methods and results meet its customers' and suppliers' requirements.

As with any test method, results obtained from use of any 3M Food Safety product do not constitute a guarantee of the quality of the matrices or processes tested.

### Limitation of Warranties / Limited Remedy

EXCEPT AS EXPRESSLY STATED IN A LIMITED WARRANTY SECTION OF INDIVIDUAL PRODUCT PACKAGING, 3M DISCLAIMS ALL EXPRESS AND IMPLIED WARRANTIES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ANY WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR USE. If any 3M Food Safety Product is defective, 3M or its authorized distributor will, at its option, replace or refund the purchase price of the product. These are your exclusive remedies. You must promptly notify 3M within sixty days of discovery of any suspected defects in a product and return it to 3M. Please call Customer Service (1-800-328-1671 in the U.S.) or your official 3M Food Safety representative for a Returned Goods Authorization.

### Limitation of 3M Liability

3M WILL NOT BE LIABLE FOR ANY LOSS OR DAMAGES, WHETHER DIRECT, INDIRECT, SPECIAL, INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO LOST PROFITS. In no event shall 3M's liability under any legal theory exceed the purchase price of the product alleged to be defective.

## Storage

Store 3M Quick Swab at temperatures  $\leq 8^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $\leq 46^{\circ}\text{F}$ ). Exposing the 3M Quick Swab to temperatures  $> 25^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $> 77^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) can affect the performance of the product. Lot numbers and expiration dates are noted on each box or case of 3M Quick Swabs as well as on each swab.

## ⚠ Disposal

As with all environmental surface sampling swabs, once used, the 3M Quick Swab may be a potential biohazard. Follow current industry standards for disposal.

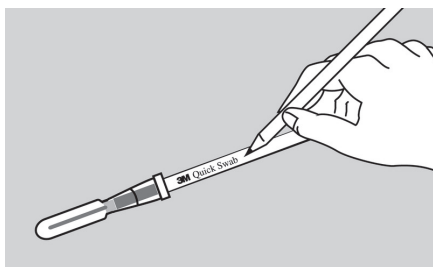
## Instructions for Use

Follow all instructions carefully. Failure to do so may lead to inaccurate results.

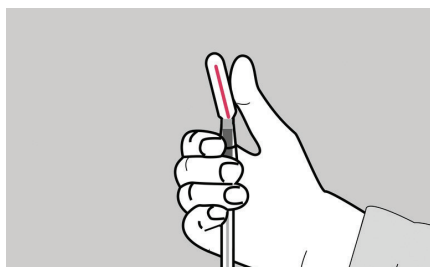
Prior to use, visually inspect each 3M Quick Swab. Use only if the letheen broth is in the bulb end of the swab and the color of the broth is clear amber, not turbid or cloudy.

Figure 1

### 1 mL Plating Instructions - Wet Swabbing Method -



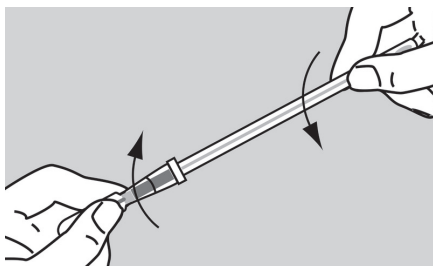
**1** Label each 3M Quick Swab.



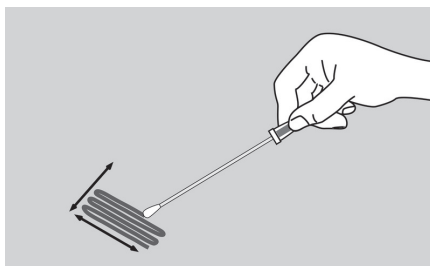
**2** Bend the red snap valve at a  $45^{\circ}$  angle until you hear the valve break. This allows the letheen broth to flow into the tube end and wet the swab bulb.



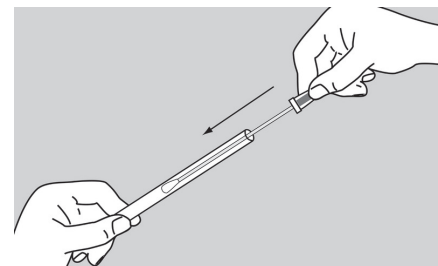
**3** Squeeze the bulb of the swab to transfer all of the letheen broth to the tube end of the swab.



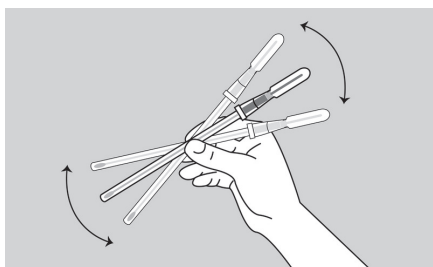
**4** Twist and pull apart the bulb end of the swab from the tube end of the swab that contains the letheen broth.



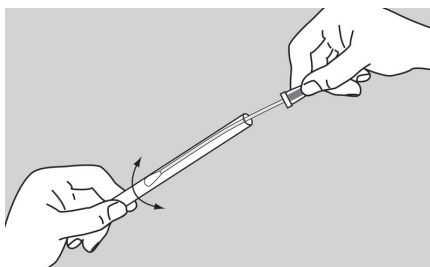
**5** Hold the swab handle to make a  $30^{\circ}$  angle with the surface. Rub the swab slowly and thoroughly over the desired surface area. Rub the swab three times over this surface, reversing direction between alternating strokes.



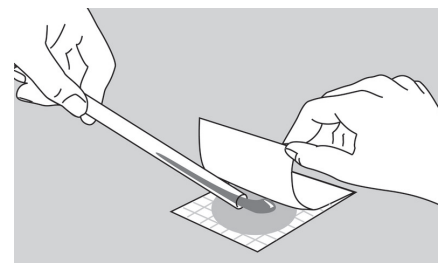
**6** After sampling is complete, securely insert the swab back into the swab tube and transport to the lab for inoculation. Plate the letheen broth swab solution as soon as possible.



**7** In the lab, vigorously shake or vortex the 3M Quick Swab for 10 seconds, to release bacteria from the swab tip.



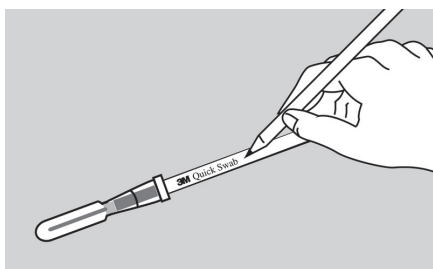
**8** Wring out the contents of the swab tip by pressing and twisting the swab against the wall of the tube.



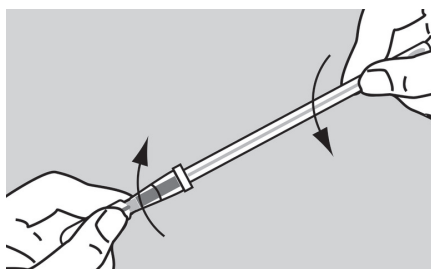
**9** Carefully pour the entire contents of the tube onto a 3M Petrifilm Plate. Follow current industry standards for disposal.



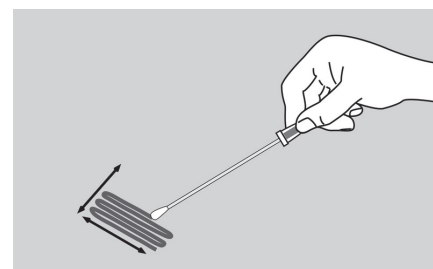
Figure 2

**1 mL Plating Instructions - Dry Swabbing Method -**

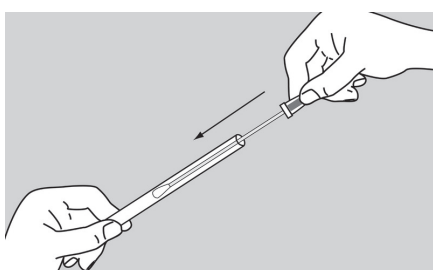
**1** Label each 3M Quick Swab.



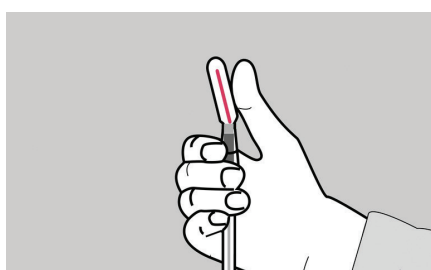
**2** Twist and pull apart the bulb end of the swab from the tube end of the swab that contains the letheen broth.



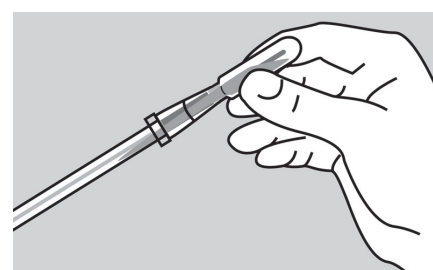
**3** Hold the swab handle to make a 30° angle with the surface. Rub the swab slowly and thoroughly over the desired surface area. Rub the swab three times over this surface, reversing direction between alternating strokes.



**4** After sampling is complete, securely insert the swab back into the swab tube and transport to the lab for inoculation. Plate the letheen broth swab solution as soon as possible.



**5** Bend the red snap valve at a 45° angle until you hear the valve break. This allows the letheen broth to flow into the tube end and wet the swab.



**6** Squeeze the bulb of the swab to transfer all of the letheen broth to the tube end of the swab.

**To complete inoculation, continue with steps 7-9 (See Figure 1 above)**

**Multiple mL Plating Instructions:**

Plating multiple bacteria tests using the 3M Quick Swab (Wet or Dry Method)

- Complete Steps 1 through 6 (Figures 1 or 2 above) for either the Wet or Dry swabbing method.
- Remove the 3M Quick Swab from the tube. Add 1-3 mL of sterile diluent to swab tube. Replace the swab in the tube.
- To prepare the sample for inoculation, vigorously shake or vortex 3M Quick Swab for 10 seconds to release the bacteria from the swab tip.
- Wring out the contents of the swab tip by pressing and twisting the swab against the wall of the tube.
- Use your thumb to bend the swab tube at a 90° angle at the highest mark that has a diluent above it. Pour off a 1mL aliquot onto a 3M Petrifilm Plate. Repeat until the entire sample is used.
- Follow current industry standards for disposal.

The entire contents of 3M Quick Swab may also be added to any sterile dilution blank. Pipette 1mL aliquots from the dilution blank onto 3M Petrifilm Plates.

**If used with 3M Petrifilm Plates:**

Refer to the appropriate 3M Petrifilm Plate “Product Instructions.”

If you have questions about specific applications or procedures, please visit our website at [www.3M.com/foodsafety](http://www.3M.com/foodsafety) or contact your local 3M representative or distributor.

**NOTE:** As with any swab sampling method, the best microbial practice is to re-sanitize the swabbed area after the swab sample has been taken.



## References

1. U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Code of Federal Regulations, Title 21, Part 58. Good Laboratory Practice for Nonclinical Laboratory Studies.
2. ISO 7218. Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs – General requirements and guidance for microbiological examinations.
3. ISO/IEC 17025. General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories.

Refer to the current versions of the standard methods listed above.

## Explanation of Symbols

[www.3M.com/foodsafety/symbols](http://www.3M.com/foodsafety/symbols)

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