

How to take a tape lift sample for mould testing



A tape lift is the simplest way to get mould surface samples to our laboratory. It takes about five minutes and needs nothing you can't find at home.

Procedure

Read all steps before you start.

1 Label the bag first

Write the room and the exact spot on the bag - for example, "bathroom ceiling, above shower" plus today's date.

2 Cut the tape

Cut a piece of clear tape about 5 cm long. Fold roughly 1 cm back on itself at each end to make two tabs to hold.

3 Hold it by the tabs

Pick the tape up by the folded tabs only. **Never touch the sticky side.**

4 Press it onto the mould

Press the sticky side gently onto the growth you want tested. Enough material has to come away on the tape for us to see what's there, without taking too much additional building material with it.

5 Peel it off

Lift the tape straight off the surface, still holding it by the tabs.

6 Lay it on the paper

Put the tape sticky side down onto the wax or baking paper, or fold it into a circle with the sticky side facing inward.

7 Bag it and seal it

Slide the paper and tape into the labelled bag and press the seal shut. One sample per bag.

8 Fill in the form and send it

Complete the chain of custody form so every line matches a bag/sample, then post or courier it all to us. There is no need to refrigerate the samples.

What you'll need

- Clear sticky tape
- Scissors
- Wax or baking paper (optional)
- One zip-lock bag per sample
- A pen
- Our chain of custody form

Things that may compromise a sample

- Touching the sticky side, or the mould, with bare fingers
- Using duct, masking, packing, or coloured tape. Use clear tape only.
- Wiping, scrubbing or spraying the area before sampling
- More than one sample in a bag

What happens next

We examine the tape under the microscope and report the mould types present, and whether the spores and fungal structures we find point to abnormal indoor mould growth.

Results in 3 business days once received. Faster turnaround is available – call the laboratory before you send the sample, as a surcharge may apply.

A tape lift tells us *what* is growing, not *why*. If you need the cause found, we can send an occupational hygienist to inspect the building, complete mould sampling, as well as humidity and moisture measurements. A scope of required mould remediation works can also be provided. Ask us for a quote.

SEND SAMPLES TO

Scaada NZ
43 Diomedes Glade,
Flagstaff, Hamilton 3210

QUESTIONS BEFORE YOU START?

022 315 1171
services@scaada.co.nz
www.scaadanzt.co.nz

TELL US IT'S ON ITS WAY

Email us the date you sent the samples and the courier or postal service used, so we can watch for them arriving.