

ELISA Tips

- Track test inventory, including when tests are received and put into use.
- Do not mix reagents from different test lots. Tests are manufactured in batches or lots according to strict quality standards. Each reagent in the test is optimized to work with the other reagents contained in the test.
- Allow test components to sit at room temperature for 2–3 hours, including the plates which should be sealed in their original bags with desiccants included.
- Monitor laboratory temperature on a daily basis. Consult the test insert for specific laboratory temperature information.
- Mix thawed samples thoroughly prior to dilution. Thoroughly mix samples and diluent before transferring them onto the coated plate.
- Use standard (forward) pipetting for the preparation of sample dilutions and use reverse pipetting for the addition of reagents (conjugate, substrate and stop).
- Do not reuse tips during the process of running an assay.
- When pipetting samples or reagents into an empty microtiter plate, place the pipette tips in the lower corner of the well, making contact with the plastic.
- Do not run the assay near a window with bright sunlight or direct flow from an air conditioner or other drafts.
- Always use the number of washes recommended in the test insert. Aspirate and fill the first row, and then proceed down the rest of the plate. Repeat this process for the recommended number of washes. Be sure to tap the plate onto an absorbent material after the final wash.
- Do not allow the plate to dry between washing and the addition of the reagent.
- Be sure to use adhesive plate covers when directed to by the test insert.
- Consult the test insert to make sure you are using all equipment mentioned. Contact IDEXX Technical Service with any equipment questions.
- Measure all reagents using sterile or clean vessels. Be careful to measure only what is needed for the number of plates being run. Do not return the reagents to the original stock bottles. We recommend using disposable reservoirs when handling reagents to minimize the risk of contamination. If you do reuse any disposable device, use a separate reservoir for each reagent and be sure to label them. Wash and thoroughly rinse the reservoirs with deionized or distilled water after use.
- Time the assay plate incubation as precisely as possible. Be consistent when adding controls to the assay plate—we recommend that you add your controls first and then your samples.
- Only use distilled or deionized water—water quality is very important.
- Read the plates as soon as possible following the addition of stop solution. Before reading, use a lint-free wipe on the bottom of the plate to ensure no moisture or fingerprints interfere with the readings.
- Ensure that all laboratory equipment is properly cleaned and maintained. Refer to equipment manuals for recommended maintenance schedules.

Check your package insert for specific instructions for each assay you perform. See the ELISA Technical Guide for tips and troubleshooting ideas.

Please contact your IDEXX representative or visit idexx.com/elisatech for additional information.

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