

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

SKC MethAlert Colorimetric Wipe Kit

Safety and storage, the eight-step wipe test for methamphetamine residue on surfaces, reading the colour result and its interferences, and care of the reagents between sites, for the SKC MethAlert Colorimetric Wipe Kit, Cat. No. 560-001.

AMTC-IN-0022

About this document

The SKC MethAlert Colorimetric Wipe Kit shows on the spot whether a surface carries methamphetamine residue. You wipe a marked area with a moistened gauze pad, spray two developers onto the pad, and a blue colour appears within minutes if the pad holds between 15 and 5000 µg of methamphetamine. The test was developed by the US National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

MethAlert is a screening test: it finds the spots where residue is present, for example in the rooms of a multi-unit building or as a quick check during remediation. It does not measure how much residue there is, and its result must not be used to clear a property.

Read Safety (p. 5) before you open the kit, and keep the solutions cold from the day they arrive. Procedure (p. 8) takes you through the test, step by step.

Keep these instructions for the lifetime of the product. The current revision is on the product page at analyt-mtc.com.

How these instructions mark information

⚠ CAUTION

A hazardous situation which, if not avoided, could result in minor or moderate injury.

NOTICE

Practices not related to personal injury — damage to the product, the process or the sample.

Note
Information that helps understanding; never a hazard.

Document information

Title	SKC MethAlert Colorimetric Wipe Kit — Instructions for use
Document number	AMTC-IN-0022
Revision	Rev. 2 — October 2026
Applies to	MethAlert Colorimetric Wipe Kit for Methamphetamine Residues on Surfaces, Cat. No. 560-001
Language	English
Manufacturer	SKC Inc.

Revision history

Rev.	Date	Change
2	October 2026	Quality programme: new document type, number and identity pages.
1	October 2026	First issue.

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CHAPTER 1

Safety

Read the safety messages in this chapter before you open the kit. The kit holds three spray solutions: the Step 1 Wetting Agent and the Step 2 and Step 3 Developers. Protect yourself from them, keep them cold, and keep them apart from food.

Protecting yourself

⚠ CAUTION

The solutions are chemical reagents. Wear gloves and safety glasses whenever you use the solutions or handle the sampling materials, and do not spray any solution onto your skin.

⚠ CAUTION

The Step 2 Developer forms a mist and vapours while you spray it. Breathing it in can harm you. Avoid breathing in the mist and the vapours while you spray.

⚠ CAUTION

The solutions are chemical reagents. Reagent that gets into food can harm you if you swallow it. Do not store the solutions together with food, whether in a refrigerator or in the cooler you take into the field.

NOTICE

Fresh gloves for every test. Gloves used for one test can carry residue to the next pad and contaminate it. Put on a new pair of clean gloves for each test, and wear them throughout.

Protective equipment. Wear the protective equipment that the conditions on the site, the guidelines for methamphetamine sampling that apply to it, and the handling information below call for. The Safety Data Sheets for MethAlert give further details.

Note

Not for clearance. MethAlert is a qualitative indication. Do not use its results to declare a surface or a property clean.

Keeping the solutions cold

NOTICE

Keep the solutions cold. The shelf lives in the table below apply only to solutions kept at 4 °C (39.2 °F) or below. Warmer solutions can spoil sooner. Store all three solutions at 4 °C (39.2 °F) or below at all times, with the screw caps closed tightly. Take them into the field in a cooler packed with ice.

Put the solutions in a refrigerator as soon as the kit arrives, and return them there after every use.

Handling, storing and disposing of the materials

Material	Shelf life	Storing and handling	Disposing
Step 1 Wetting Agent	1 year at 4 °C (39.2 °F) or below	Close the bottle with its screw cap. Keep at 4 °C (39.2 °F) or below; in the field, in a cooler with ice. Not with food. Wear gloves and safety glasses during use. **Step 2 only:** do not breathe in the mist or the vapours.	Following national and local regulations.
Step 2 Developer	6 months at 4 °C (39.2 °F) or below		
Step 3 Developer	6 months at 4 °C (39.2 °F) or below		
Sampling materials gloves, templates, plastic trays, pads, wax paper	—	Keep in a dry place until use. Wear gloves and safety glasses.	After the test, seal them in the resealable test packet bag and dispose of it following national and local regulations.

CHAPTER 2

Product and supplied items

What is in the kit

One kit holds enough for 12 tests. The three solutions are shared by all the tests; everything that touches the sample comes in a test packet of its own, used once.

Item	What it is for
Step 1 Wetting Agent (bottle labelled 1)	Moistens the pad before you wipe
Step 2 Developer (bottle labelled 2)	First developer, sprayed onto the used pad
Step 3 Developer (bottle labelled 3)	Second developer, sprayed after the Step 2 Developer
Spray nozzles	Fitted to the bottles for spraying
Test packets, each in a resealable bag, with one each of:	
Pad (gauze)	Collects the sample when you wipe
Plastic tray	Holds the pad while you spray it and read the result
Pair of disposable gloves	Protection, and keeping the pad free of other residue
Disposable template, 10 × 10 cm	Marks the area you wipe
Paper for the preparation area and wax paper	A clean base for the test items
Instructions, a quick guide and the Safety Data Sheet	

What the test detects

MethAlert indicates whether methamphetamine residue is present on a surface. A blue colour appears on the pad when it holds between 15 and 5000 µg of methamphetamine. The lower limit of visual identification is 15 µg per pad: below it the pad stays uncoloured. The stronger the blue, the more residue the pad holds — 15 µg gives a lighter blue than 250 µg — but the test gives no number. For a semi-quantitative result, use the SKC MethChek kit.

Note
Not for clearance. MethAlert is a qualitative indication. Do not use its results to declare a surface or a property clean.

Suitable surfaces

You can test dashboards and steering wheels, countertops, tables and chairs, doorknobs, wood floors, walls and ceilings that are not textured, kitchen and bathroom fixtures such as sinks, toilets, baths and showers, appliances, furniture, curtains, and animal fur.

NOTICE

The Step 2 and Step 3 Developers may leave stains on some fabrics. Before you test a fabric, make sure that a stain on it is acceptable.

Some other substances also colour the pad; see Interferences (p. 9).

CHAPTER 3

Procedure

A test has four stages: set out the items, wipe the area inside the template with a moistened pad, spray the two developers, and read the colour. Use one test packet and a new pair of clean gloves for every test.

Note
Priming. Where a step says *prime*, prime the bottle in a waste bin before you spray the pad.

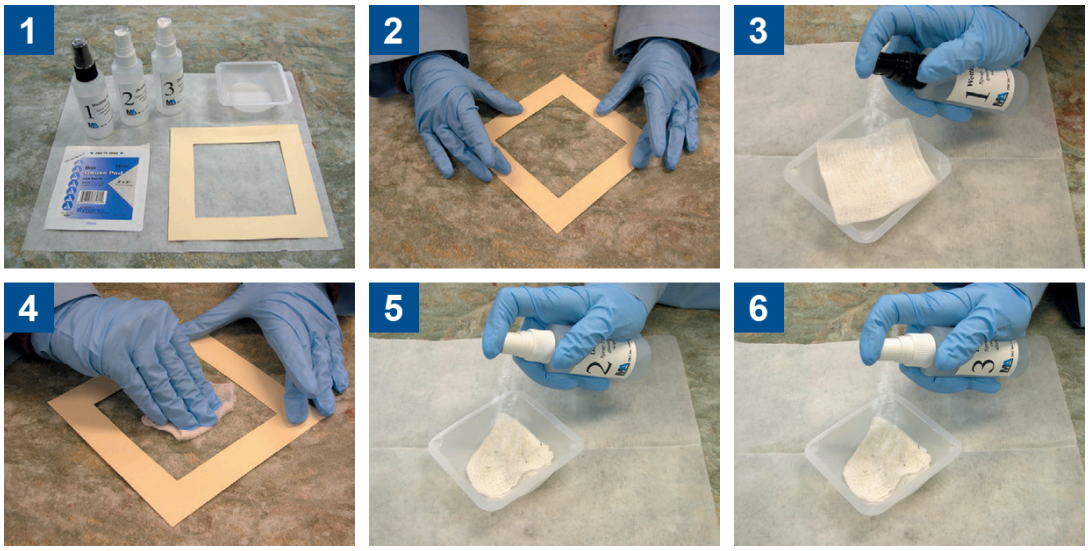


Figure 3-1. Photos 1 to 6 show steps 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 8 below.

The test, step by step

CAUTION

The solutions are chemical reagents. Wear gloves and safety glasses whenever you use the solutions or handle the sampling materials, and do not spray any solution onto your skin.

1. Lay a sheet of wax paper on a level surface and place the bottles and the items from the packet on it.
2. Lay the template flat on the surface you want to test.
3. Prime the Step 1 Wetting Agent bottle.
4. Lay the pad in the tray and spray it **2 times** with the Wetting Agent, holding the bottle 4 in away.

   Note
   Do not trap residue under the template or push it beneath the edges.

5. Wipe the area inside the template with the moistened pad, holding it so that the sample collects in one area of the pad.

CAUTION

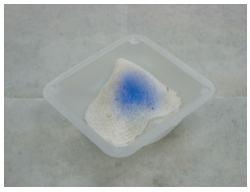
The Step 2 Developer forms a mist and vapours while you spray it. Breathing it in can harm you. Avoid breathing in the mist and the vapours while you spray.

Note

Keep the Step 2 Developer bottle cold before and after use.

6. Put the pad back in the tray, sampled side up, and spray it **2 times** with the Step 2 Developer.
7. Prime the Step 3 Developer bottle.
8. Spray the pad **4 times** with the Step 3 Developer.
9. Watch the pad: a colour starts to show within 1 minute, and the result is complete after 5 minutes.
10. Read the colour with the table below, and photograph the pad if you need a record.
11. Put the used pad, tray, template, gloves and papers in the resealable bag of the test packet, seal it, and dispose of it following national and local environmental regulations.

Reading the result

	Pad after 5 min	Result
	**Blue colour**	**Positive.** Methamphetamine residue is present, between 15 and 5000 µg on the pad. The strength of the blue varies with the amount. The colour lasts 15 to 20 minutes: photograph it within that time if you need a record.
	**No blue colour**	**Negative.** No methamphetamine residue detected at the lower limit of visual identification, 15 µg.

The photos are a guide only; printed colours vary.

Interferences

Some other substances can also colour the pad and give a false positive. Some give a colour that differs from the blue of methamphetamine; others give a blue that can be mistaken for it:

Substance	Colour reaction
MDMA (ecstasy)	Very dark, deep blue
Methylphenidate (Ritalin®)	Pale violet
Methcathinone ("cat")	Pale blue
MDA (3,4-methylenedioxyamphetamine)	Pinkish rose
MDEA	Deep blue, turning muddy brown at higher concentrations
Some secondary amines	A colour reaction is possible

No substances are known that suppress the colour and cause a false negative.

CHAPTER 4

After use and sample handling

Looking after the solutions

Each bottle holds enough solution for several tests. Keep the bottles, their solutions and the spray nozzles until they are empty or past their expiry date; do not throw them away earlier.

1. Close each bottle tightly with its screw cap for transport and storage.
2. Return the solutions to cold storage, at 4 °C (39.2 °F) or below, away from food (see Handling, storing and disposing of the materials (p. 6)).

   NOTICE

   Cross-contamination. Residue picked up on the outside of a bottle at one site can be carried to the next. Always wash the bottles between sites.

3. Before you test at another site, wash the outside of the bottles thoroughly with soap and water.

Disposal. When a bottle is empty or past its expiry date, dispose of the solution, the bottle and the spray nozzle following national and local regulations (see Handling, storing and disposing of the materials (p. 6)).

CHAPTER 5

Ordering information

Order from Analyt-MTC with the order code.

The kit is shipped cold-packed; refrigerate the solutions on delivery.

Description	Range of identification	Pack	Order code
MethAlert Colorimetric Wipe Kit (contents: see What is in the kit (p. 7))	15–5000 µg per pad	12 tests	560-001

CHAPTER 6

Service and contacts

Ordering and support

ANALYT-MTC Messtechnik GmbH

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Ordering and questions

Analyt-MTC supplies the MethAlert kit and answers your questions about the test and its results. Order with the catalogue number in Ordering information (p. 11). Warranty and returns follow the terms of Analyt-MTC.

Analyt-MTC is your contact for everything concerning the MethAlert kit: questions about the test, its scope and its results, orders and complaints. Warranty and returns follow the terms of Analyt-MTC. Analyt-MTC's contact details are in this chapter and on the back cover.

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