ANALYT MESSTECHNIK



OPERATING MANUAL

SKC MethChek Immunoassay Wipe Kit

Wipe test for methamphetamine residue on surfaces: choosing the kit, taking, extracting and developing a wipe sample with MethChek 50, 100, 500 and 1500, reading the cartridge, and handling, storing and disposing of the kit's materials.

AMTC-MN-0030

Rev. 2 · October 2026

About this manual

SKC MethChek® kits show on site whether a surface carries methamphetamine residue above a set amount. You wipe a 10 × 10 cm area, extract the wipe and drop the extract onto a test cartridge; within 5 minutes the cartridge shows whether residue is present above the kit's lower limit of identification. The test is a semi-quantitative immunoassay developed by the US National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Centers for Disease Control (CDC). It is made for assessing former clandestine methamphetamine laboratories before and after remediation, without waiting for laboratory results.

There are four kits, named after their lower limit of identification: MethChek 50, 100, 500 and 1500 — 50, 100, 500 or 1500 ng of methamphetamine in the 100 cm² sampled, that is 0.05, 0.1, 0.5 or 1.5 µg/100 cm². MethChek 100, 500 and 1500 sample with a gauze pad and extract it in a syringe; MethChek 50 samples with a swab and extracts it in a vial.

Read Safety (p. 5) before you open a kit, and choose the kit as described in Choosing the kit (p. 7). Then follow the test for MethChek 100, 500 and 1500 at the start of Operation (p. 8) or Testing with MethChek 50 (p. 10), and read the cartridge with Reading the result (p. 12).

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

Note
Every kit has a limited shelf life, with the expiry date printed on the packaging. An expired cartridge can give an invalid result. Check the date before you use the kit.

How this manual marks 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.

Tip
A shortcut or recommendation; never a hazard.

Document information

Title	SKC MethChek Immunoassay Wipe Kit — Operating manual
Document number	AMTC-MN-0030
Revision	Rev. 2 — October 2026
Applies to	MethChek 50, 100, 500 and 1500 immunoassay wipe kits, Cat. No. series 560-002, 560-003 and 560-004
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 this chapter before you open a kit. Keep the solutions off your skin, and treat everything that has touched a sample as hazardous waste.

Intended use

MethChek kits show on site whether a surface carries methamphetamine residue above the lower limit of identification of the kit. They are made for assessing former clandestine methamphetamine laboratories before and after remediation.

Do not use the test to measure how much residue is there: it is semi-quantitative and only places the residue above or below one limit. Some authorities require laboratory results from quantitative wipe sampling before they certify a building for re-occupation; the test does not replace them.

Note
Cartridges have a limited shelf life. An expired cartridge can give an invalid result. Check the expiry date on the packaging before you use it.

The solutions

CAUTION

The Step 1 Wetting Agent, the Step 2 Extractor and the extract are chemical reagents. Contact can harm your skin and eyes, and swallowing them can harm you.

- Never spray or wipe a solution or the extract onto your skin.
- Never swallow a solution or the extract.
- Wear gloves and safety glasses whenever you work with the solutions, the cartridge or the sampling materials.

For the Safety Data Sheets for the Step 1 Wetting Agent, the Step 2 Extractor and the Step 3 Cartridge, ask Analyt-MTC.

Gloves and protective equipment

Wear the gloves from the test packet whenever you sample or handle the solutions. Beyond gloves and safety glasses, choose your personal protective equipment for the condition of the site, the sampling guidelines that apply where you test, the handling information in this chapter and your own comfort level.

NOTICE

Gloves worn for one test can carry residue to the next. The next sample is then contaminated. Put on a new pair of clean gloves for every test.

NOTICE

Residue from one site can cling to the outside of the Wetting Agent bottle. It is then carried to the next site. Before you sample at another site, wash the outside of the bottle thoroughly with soap and water.

Storing and disposing of the materials

Material	Storing	Disposing, following national and local regulations
Step 1 Wetting Agent	At ambient temperature, 68–77 °F (20–25 °C). Shelf life 1 year. Keep the bottle and nozzle for further tests until empty or expired; close it with its screw cap for transport and storage.	Following the regulations.
Step 2 Extractor	At ambient temperature, 68–77 °F (20–25 °C). Shelf life 1 year.	Following the regulations.
Step 3 Cartridge	Before use: ideally at ambient temperature, 68–77 °F (20–25 °C), in a dry place. After development: away from bright light (see Keeping the result (p. 13)).	As hazardous material.
Sampling materials gloves, templates, trays, gauze pads, swabs, pipettes, vials	In a dry place before use.	After sampling, sealed in the resealable test-packet bag, as hazardous material.

CHAPTER 2

Product description

What the test tells you

The Step 3 Cartridge reacts to methamphetamine above the lower limit of identification of the kit it comes from. A positive result therefore means that the wiped 100 cm² carried more methamphetamine than that limit; a negative result means it did not. The test is semi-quantitative: it places the residue above or below one limit, and it does not measure how much is there.

That is what you need on a remediation site: where cleaning is needed, and whether an area needs further cleaning before it meets the clean-up guidelines. Some authorities require laboratory results from quantitative wipe sampling before they certify a building for re-occupation; check the clean-up guidelines that apply where you test.

Choosing the kit

Choose the kit whose lower limit of identification matches the clean-up level in the guidelines that apply where you test.

Kit	Lower limit of identification	Sampled with
MethChek 50	0.05 µg/100 cm² (50 ng)	Swab, extracted in a vial
MethChek 100	0.1 µg/100 cm² (100 ng)	Gauze pad, extracted in a syringe
MethChek 500	0.5 µg/100 cm² (500 ng)	Gauze pad, extracted in a syringe
MethChek 1500	1.5 µg/100 cm² (1500 ng)	Gauze pad, extracted in a syringe

Where to sample

Use MethChek on surfaces such as countertops, doorknobs, wooden floors, non-textured walls and ceilings, tables and chairs, bathroom and kitchen fixtures — sinks, toilets, bathtubs and showers — appliances, curtains and furniture.

Take several samples, in several locations within a building. The sampling guidelines that apply where you test say how many samples to take and where to place the template.

What is in the kit

Each kit holds Step 1 Wetting Agent (one bottle serves several tests) with a spray nozzle, these operating instructions, a quick guide, and one test packet per test. Each test packet is a resealable bag that holds one of each of these items:

- pair of disposable gloves;
- wax paper, a clean base for the test items;
- disposable template, 10 × 10 cm (100 cm²);
- gauze pad (MethChek 100, 500, 1500) or cotton swab (MethChek 50), for wiping;
- syringe, for pressing out the gauze pad (not in MethChek 50);
- tray, which collects the extract;
- Step 2 Extractor, 1, 2, 10 or 40 mL depending on the kit — a bottle, or a vial in MethChek 50;
- Step 3 Cartridge (detection cartridge) with disposable pipette;
- sample storage "mini" bag for the developed cartridge.

CHAPTER 3

Operation

Operation takes a test from preparing the test packet to the read cartridge. The test with MethChek 100, 500 and 1500 comes first; the test with MethChek 50 and reading the result follow.

These three kits sample with a gauze pad, press the extract out of it in a syringe and develop it on the Step 3 Cartridge. Read Safety (p. 5) before you start; for MethChek 50, see Testing with MethChek 50 (p. 10).

Preparing

1. Put on safety glasses and a new pair of clean gloves from the test packet.
2. Lay the wax paper on a level surface.
3. Stand the Step 2 Extractor bottle on the wax paper.
4. Pull the plunger out of the syringe and lay both parts on the wax paper.
5. Lay the template on the surface to be tested, where the sampling guidelines call for it. Fix it to the surface so that it cannot move while you wipe.
6. Unscrew the cap of the Step 1 Wetting Agent bottle, screw the spray nozzle on tightly, and prime the nozzle by spraying into a waste bin.
7. Take the gauze pad out of its package and spray it **twice** with Step 1 Wetting Agent, from about 4 in.



Figure 1. Left: items on the wax paper (steps 2–4). Centre: template on the test surface (step 5). Right: spray the gauze pad twice (step 7).

Wiping the surface

NOTICE

Residue trapped under the template edges spoils the sample. Do not let residue get trapped under the edges, or push it there with the pad.

Press the moistened gauze pad firmly onto the surface and wipe the whole area inside the template three times, each time from left to right: first in a **W** pattern, then in a **Z** pattern, then in a **W** pattern again.

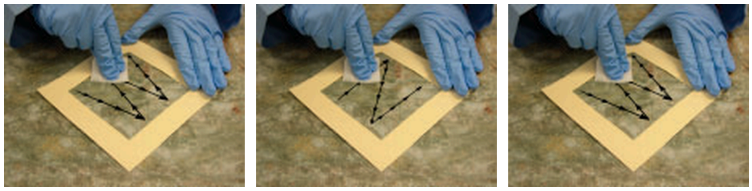


Figure 2. Wiping patterns, left to right: W, then Z, then W again.

Tip
Hold the pad so that the residue collects on one area of it. A concentrated sample extracts better.

Extracting the sample

8. Push the gauze pad with the sample into the syringe barrel.
9. Insert the plunger and push the pad gently down to the base of the barrel, just enough to compact it loosely.
10. Pull the plunger out again.
11. Open the Step 2 Extractor bottle. Holding the syringe over the plastic tray, pour the Extractor into the syringe.

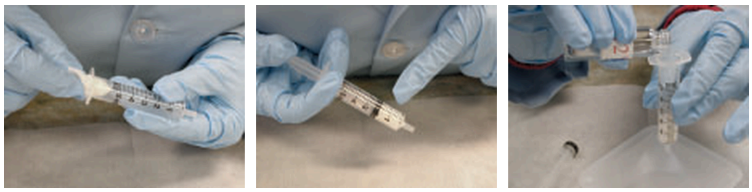


Figure 3. Left: gauze pad into the syringe (step 8). Centre: compact it loosely (step 9). Right: pour in the Step 2 Extractor over the tray (step 11).

12. Hold the syringe tip over the tray. Insert the plunger and press it slowly down, squeezing the extract out of the pad, until no more liquid flows.
13. Put the syringe tip into the liquid in the tray and pull the plunger slowly back to halfway, drawing the extract back into the syringe.
14. Press the extract out into the tray again, as in step 12.

Developing the cartridge

15. Take the Step 3 Cartridge and the disposable pipette out of their packet and lay them on the wax paper. The cartridge must lie level.

16. With the pipette, put **3 drops** of extract from the tray into the sample well of the cartridge, marked **S**.

> **Note**
> A cartridge that is moved or not held flat while the result develops can give an invalid result. Do not touch or move the cartridge while the result develops. Keep it flat.

17. Watch the cartridge. The first lines show within a minute; the result is fully developed after **5 minutes**. Read it as described in Reading the result (p. 12).



Figure 4. Left: press the extract into the tray (step 12). Centre: draw it back halfway (step 13). Right: 3 drops into the sample well S (step 16).

After the test

18. When the test is complete, write the sample identifier on the cartridge and on the mini bag, and put the cartridge into the mini bag for transport or storage (see Identifying and keeping the cartridge (p. 13)).
19. Put all disposable items into the resealable test-packet bag, seal it and dispose of it as hazardous material (see Storing and disposing of the materials (p. 6)). Keep the Step 1 Wetting Agent bottle for further tests: cap it, and wash its outside before the next site.

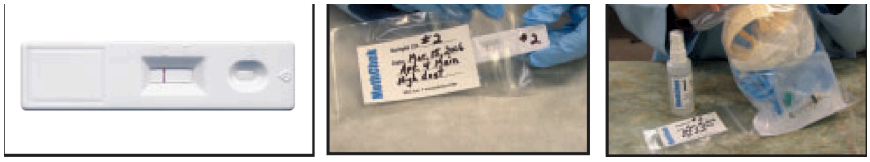


Figure 5. Left: the result develops within 5 minutes (step 17). Centre: label the cartridge and the mini bag (step 18). Right: seal the disposable items in the test-packet bag (step 19).

Testing with MethChek 50

MethChek 50, the kit with the lowest limit of identification (50 ng), samples with a cotton swab, which is extracted in the Step 2 Extractor vial; no syringe is needed. One test takes one test packet. Read Safety (p. 5) before you start.

Preparing

1. Put on safety glasses and a new pair of clean gloves from the test packet.
2. Lay the wax paper on a level surface and put the items from the test packet on it.
3. Lay the template on the surface to be tested, where the sampling guidelines call for it. Fix it to the surface so that it cannot move while you wipe.
4. Unscrew the cap of the Step 1 Wetting Agent bottle, screw the spray nozzle on tightly, and prime the nozzle by spraying into a waste bin. Then spray the cotton tip of the swab **twice** from about 4 in, turning the swab between the two sprays.



Figure 6. Left: items on the wax paper (step 2). Centre: template on the test surface (step 3). Right: spray the swab tip twice (step 4).

Wiping the surface

NOTICE

Residue trapped under the template edges, or strokes that are not tight and continuous, spoil the sample. The result depends on it. Do not let residue get trapped under the edges, or push it there with the swab. Keep the strokes tight and continuous.

Press the moistened swab moderately firmly onto the surface and wipe the whole area inside the template three times, each time from left to right in tight, continuous strokes: first in a **W** pattern, then in a **Z** pattern, then in a **W** pattern again.

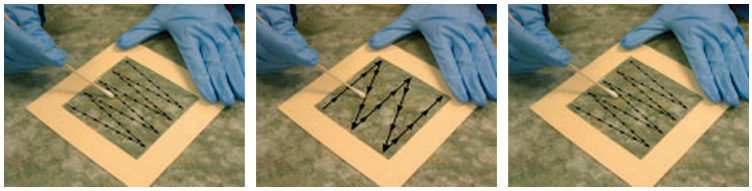


Figure 7. Wiping patterns, left to right, tight and continuous: W, then Z, then W again.

Extracting the sample

5. Open the Step 2 Extractor vial and put the swab into it, cotton tip first.
6. Bend the swab until the stick breaks, so that the swab stays inside the vial, and close the vial with its cap.

> **Note**
> Do not shake the vial. If foam forms, let the vial stand until the foam has gone.

7. Turn the vial slowly end over end to mix.

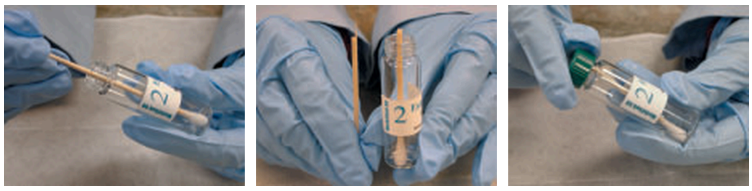


Figure 8. Left: swab into the Step 2 Extractor vial (step 5). Centre and right: break off the stick and cap the vial (step 6).

Developing the cartridge

8. Take the Step 3 Cartridge and the disposable pipette out of their packet and lay them on the wax paper. The cartridge must lie level.
9. With the pipette, put **3 drops** of extract from the vial into the sample well of the cartridge, marked **S**.

> **Note**
> A cartridge that is moved or not held flat while the result develops can give an invalid result. Do not touch or move the cartridge while the result develops. Keep it flat.

10. Watch the cartridge. The first lines show within a minute; the result is fully developed after **5 minutes**. Read it as described in Reading the result (p. 12).

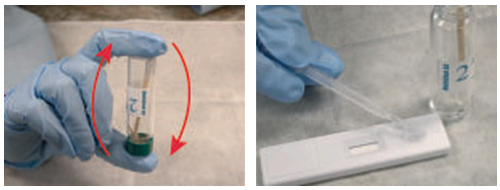


Figure 9. Left: turn the vial end over end (step 7). Right: 3 drops into the sample well S (step 9).

After the test

11. When the test is complete, write the sample identifier on the cartridge and on the mini bag, and put the cartridge into the mini bag for transport or storage (see Identifying and keeping the cartridge (p. 13)).
12. Put all disposable items into the resealable test-packet bag, seal it and dispose of it as hazardous material (see Storing and disposing of the materials (p. 6)). Keep the Step 1 Wetting Agent bottle for further tests: cap it, and wash its outside before the next site.

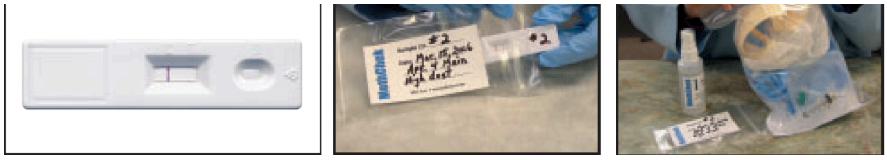


Figure 10. Left: the result develops within 5 minutes (step 10). Centre: label the cartridge and the mini bag (step 11). Right: seal the disposable items in the test-packet bag (step 12).

Reading the result

Read the cartridge once the result has fully developed, 5 minutes after you added the extract. Count the lines in the result window — and note where they are.

What the lines mean

Turn the cartridge so that the sample well **S** is on the right, as in Figure 11, and look at the result window in the middle.

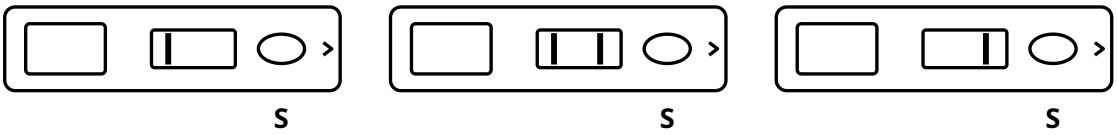


Figure 11. Left: positive. Centre: negative. Right: invalid.

Result	Lines in the result window	Meaning
Positive	One line only, at the left end of the window, away from the sample well	Methamphetamine residue detected above the kit's lower limit of identification.
Negative	Two lines, whatever their intensity	No methamphetamine residue detected at the kit's lower limit of identification.
Invalid	One line only, at the right end of the window, next to the sample well — or no line at all	No result. Repeat the test with a new test packet and a new cartridge (see Invalid tests (p. 13)).

Note

Two lines, one faint. This is a negative result. Two lines mean negative whether they are dark or faint: the darkness of a line says nothing about the concentration.

Invalid tests

Invalid results are rare. When one appears, repeat the test with a new cartridge. Possible causes:

- a damaged cartridge, or a cartridge that has expired or been stored too warm;
- substances in the sample that interfere with the test: strong organic compounds, bleaching agents, or an extremely high or low pH;
- a procedure error: the cartridge was not lying flat while the result developed, or too little extract was added.

If **no line at all** appears, too little extract reached the cartridge, or the drops went into the result window instead of the sample well **S**.

Interferences

There are no known negative interferences: no substance is known to hide methamphetamine from the test. Some related compounds react like methamphetamine and can give a positive result (positive interferences). The table lists the amount of each compound that gives the same response as 50 ng/mL of d-methamphetamine, and its cross-reactivity.

Compound	Approx. ng equivalent to 50 ng/mL d-methamphetamine	Cross-reactivity, %
MDMA (ecstasy)	< 50	100+
d-Methamphetamine	50	100
Street methamphetamine (methamphetamine hydrochloride, purity unknown)	50	100
d,l-Methamphetamine	80	62
l-Methamphetamine	650	8
d-Amphetamine	2500	2
Phenylephrine (an ingredient of nasal sprays)	2500	2
d-Ephedrine	4000	0.3
l-Ephedrine, d,l-ephedrine	> 5000	< 1.0
d-Phenylpropanolamine, d,l-phenylpropanolamine	> 5000	< 1.0
d-Pseudoephedrine, l-pseudoephedrine	> 5000	< 1.0
Heroin, powder cocaine, street cocaine	> 1 000 000	< 0.005

Identifying and keeping the cartridge

- Photograph the cartridge if you need a record of the result.
- Give every cartridge a unique identifier, as your sampling guidelines require, and write it with indelible ink on the cartridge and on the label of the mini bag.
- Transport and store the cartridge in its resealable mini bag.

Keeping the result

A developed cartridge keeps its result visible for several months before the lines fade.

NOTICE

Bright light fades the lines of a developed cartridge. Over time, the result can then no longer be read. Keep developed cartridges away from bright light. Normal indoor lighting does no harm.

CHAPTER 4

Ordering information

Order from Analyt-MTC with the order codes.

Each kit comes with Step 1 Wetting Agent and its spray nozzle, and one test packet per test (contents: see What is in the kit (p. 7)). The kits have a limited shelf life; check the expiry date on delivery.

MethChek immunoassay wipe kits

Kit	Lower limit of identification, µg/100 cm²	ng	Tests	Order code
MethChek 50	0.05	50	1	560-004A
			3	560-004B
			12	560-004
MethChek 100	0.1	100	1	560-003A
			3	560-003B
			12	560-003
MethChek 500	0.5	500	1	Ask Analyt-MTC
			3	Ask Analyt-MTC
			12	560-002
MethChek 1500	1.5	1500	3	Ask Analyt-MTC
			12	Ask Analyt-MTC

CHAPTER 5

Service, warranty and contacts

Ordering and support

ANALYT-MTC Messtechnik GmbH

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www.analyt-mtc.com

Ordering and questions

Analyt-MTC supplies the MethChek kits and their Safety Data Sheets, and answers questions about the test and its use. Order with the order codes in Ordering information (p. 15). Warranty and returns follow the terms of Analyt-MTC.

Analyt-MTC is your contact for everything concerning the MethChek kits: choosing the right kit, questions about the test and its results, Safety Data Sheets, orders and complaints. Warranty and returns follow the terms of Analyt-MTC. Analyt-MTC's contact details are at the start of this chapter and on the back cover.

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AMTC-MN-0030 · Rev. 2 · 2026-10

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