



Environmental considerations for **Rapid Test Screen Kits** include Waste Minimization, Mercury, and PVC.

Waste Minimization

These test kits are generally designed to be disposable in biohazard waste or, for some components, possibly solid waste. Thus, considerations of waste minimization may be important for this product. We would suggest asking for the weight, per test, of solid and biohazard waste, so that you can compare this figure among vendors and have the option to choose the vendor that will provide a kit that results in the least biohazardous (and solid) waste. Here is an example of RFP language you could consider to address this:

We are committed to minimizing the amount of solid, hazardous, and biohazardous waste generated in their operations and desire to avoid the acquisition of Products that contribute significantly to the volume of waste. Supplier must provide information in relation to the amount of solid, hazardous, biohazardous, and mixed waste generated, per test, including packaging, for all Products.

____ Ounces of solid (non-hazardous) waste generated per test.
____ Ounces of hazardous waste generated per test.
____ Ounces of biohazardous waste generated per test.
____ Ounces of mixed (hazardous and biohazardous) waste generated per test.

Mercury

- Some rapid test screens contain mercury-based preservatives such as thimerosal.
- Depending on the test, mercury-free kits may be available.
- The mercury preservative may not always appear on the Material Safety Data Sheet or on the ingredient list that the salesman has, because its concentration is so low. Thus, the person submitting the RFP response may think the product contains no mercury because they have not asked their manufacturer about it.
- We would suggest avoiding kits that use a mercury preservative, regardless of the concentration, because the ingredients in this kit will enter the waste stream directly. Thus, to address this issue, We would suggest you add a specific clause to the RFP such as this:

We are committed to minimizing the amount of mercury used in their operation and desire to avoid the acquisition of Products that contain mercury whenever feasible alternatives exist that do not compromise patient care. Supplier must provide information in relation to those Products that contain mercury. *For Rapid Test Screens, this includes any mercury preservative, at any concentration, present in any portion of the test kit, including required liquid reagents, whether or not the mercury compound is listed on the Material Safety Data Sheet. A list of typical brand names and chemical names of common mercury preservatives is provided below. Note that the mercury preservative may not be listed on the Material Safety Data Sheet, thus it may be necessary to ask the manufacturer for this information.*

Common Names for Mercury Preservatives

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aeroaid • Curativ • Ethyl (2-mercaptobenzoato-S) mercury sodium salt • [(o-carboxyphenyl)thio] Ethylmercury sodium salt • -(Ethylmercurithio)benzoic acid sodium salt • Elcide 75 • Elicide • Estivin • Ethylmercurithiosalicylic acid, sodium salt • Ethylmercurithiosalicylate sodium • Ethylmercurithiosalicylate sodium salt • Mercurothiolate • Mercurate(1-), {ethyl[o-mercaptobenzoato(2-)]-,} sodium • Mercurate(1-), {ethyl[2-mercaptobenzoato(2-)-O,S]-,} sodium • Mercural • Mercury, ethyl(hydrogen o-mercaptobenzoato)-, sodium salt • Mercury, ethyl(2-mercaptobenzoato-S)-sodium salt • Mercury {[[(o-carboxyphenyl)thio]ethyl}-sodium salt • Merphol • Merseptyl (VAN) • Merthiolate • Merthiolate salt | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Merthiolate sodium • Merzonin sodium • Merzonin, sodium salt • Nosemack • Sodium ethylmercurithiosalicylate • Mercurothiolate • Mertorgan • Merfamin • Septicol • SET • Sodium ethylmercuric thiosalicylate • Sodium ethylmercurithiosalicylate • Sodium merthiolate • Sodium o-(ethylmercurithio)benzoate • Sodium salt of 2-(carboxyphenyl)thioethylmercury • Sodium 2-(ethylmercurithio)benzoate • Thimerosal • Thimerosal solution • Thimerosalate • Thimerosol • Thimerosol solution • Thimersalate • Thiomerosal • Thiomerosalat • Thiomerosalate • Thiomerosal • Thiomerosalan • Vitasepto |
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___ The Rapid Test Screens do not contain intentionally added mercury, at any concentration.

___ The Rapid Test Screens do or may contain intentionally added mercury.

PVC

- Some rapid test screens include PVC components
- We would suggest avoiding kits that contain PVC, if all other criteria are equal, because of PVC's affect on the environment.
- Thus, to address this issue, We would suggest you add a specific clause to the RFP such as this:

We are committed to minimizing the use of PVC (polyvinyl chloride) plastic. Supplier must disclose whether this product contains PVC components.

___ Yes, these products contain PVC components

___ No, these products do not contain PVC components.

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