



Drying DNA samples prior to shipping

We recommend drying DNA samples in a plate-based speedvac before shipping. We have developed an alternative protocol that may be used if you do not have access to a speedvac.

Drying DNA samples using a thermocycler

1. Use a ½ skirted plate.
2. Seal the plates and spin them down in a centrifuge so that all the liquid is at the bottom of the wells and there are no air bubbles.
3. Place plates in a thermocycler and carefully remove the plate seals.
4. Heat at 65°C with the lid open until the DNAs are completely dried. Do not heat above 65°C, as higher temperatures will degrade the DNA. 30µl will take between 1.5 and 2.5 hours to dry. Do not hold at 65°C longer than is necessary to dry the DNA. You may wish to perform a trial run with water samples of the same volume as your DNA samples to determine how long it will take to dry your DNAs.
5. When dry, apply a new plate seal. Make sure that the plate is sealed completely.

Packing

When you pack your plates for shipping, put a piece of cardboard on top of each plate. This helps prevent the seal from getting holes during shipping. Use some bubble wrap around the plates to cushion them.