



AUG 01, 2023

## DNA Extraction Protocol from Sterivex Filters

Alexandria B

Meghan M. Shea<sup>1</sup>, Boehm<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Stanford University



Meghan M. Shea

Stanford University

### ABSTRACT

This is a modified protocol for extracting DNA from Sterivex filters using an adjusted procedure with the Qiagen DNeasy Blood and Tissue Kit, as first published by [Spens et al. 2017](#).

This protocol originates with environmental DNA samples collected onto 0.22 µm capped Sterivex filters, e.g. through this sampling and filtration protocol:

OPEN ACCESS



DOI:

[dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.ewov1qyygr2/v1](https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.ewov1qyygr2/v1)

**Protocol Citation:** Meghan M. Shea, Alexandria B Boehm 2023. DNA Extraction Protocol from Sterivex Filters. **protocols.io**

<https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.ewov1qyygr2/v1>

**MANUSCRIPT CITATION:**  
TBD

**License:** This is an open access protocol distributed under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution License](#), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited

**Protocol status:** Working  
We use this protocol and it's working

### Protocol



NAME

**Coastal Environmental DNA Sampling & Gravity Filtration Protocol**

CREATED BY

Meghan M. Shea

**PREVIEW**

### ATTACHMENTS

[HB-2061-003\\_HB\\_DNY\\_Blood\\_Tissue\\_0720\\_WW.pdf](#)

### IMAGE ATTRIBUTION

Meghan M. Shea

### MATERIALS

#### General Laboratory Equipment:

| Equipment | Specific Model Used |
|-----------|---------------------|
|-----------|---------------------|

**Created:** Jun 16, 2023

**Last Modified:** Aug 01, 2023

**PROTOCOL integer ID:** 83545

**Keywords:** environmental DNA, DNA extraction, Sterivex, Qiagen DNeasy Blood and Tissue Kit

| Equipment                                                                                    | Specific Model Used                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Incubator                                                                                    | VWR 1565B                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Tube roller shaker                                                                           | Southwest Science (STL100)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 10% bleach solution in spray bottle                                                          | NA                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| >70% ethanol solution in spray bottle                                                        | NA                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| RNase Away solution in spray bottle                                                          | NA                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| UV Crosslinker                                                                               | UVP CL-1000 Ultraviolet Crosslinker                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Kimwipes                                                                                     | NA                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Gloves                                                                                       | NA                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 1000 µL pipette with sterile tips (that fit the top of the Sterivex-- ideally long & skinny) | Various                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 200 µL pipette with sterile tips                                                             | Various                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 100 µL pipette with sterile tips                                                             | Various                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 10 µL pipette with sterile tips                                                              | Various                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Vortex                                                                                       | VWR Mini Vortexer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Centrifuge                                                                                   | Eppendorf Centrifuge 5424                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Lab markers                                                                                  | VWR (52877-310):<br><a href="https://us.vwr.com/store/product/4597364/vwr-chemical-resistant-laboratory-marker">https://us.vwr.com/store/product/4597364/vwr-chemical-resistant-laboratory-marker</a>                                                                |
| Cryo-labels                                                                                  | USA Scientific (9187-0100):<br><a href="https://www.usascientific.com/cryo-tags-combo-sheets/p/9187-0100">https://www.usascientific.com/cryo-tags-combo-sheets/p/9187-0100</a>                                                                                       |
| Freezer boxes                                                                                | Cole-Parmer, via Fisher Scientific (3391550):<br><a href="https://www.fishersci.com/shop/products/polar-safe-81-place-polypropylene-storage-boxes-6/03391550">https://www.fishersci.com/shop/products/polar-safe-81-place-polypropylene-storage-boxes-6/03391550</a> |
| Variety of sterile or sterilizable tubes for holding aliquots of reagents                    | Various, including some that fit in heat block                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Heat block                                                                                   | VWR Standard Heatblock                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Qubit Fluorometer                                                                            | Invitrogen Qubit 2.0 Fluorometer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

## Note

There are many types of incubators and shakers (some combined) that could be used to heat and agitate the Sterivex filters overnight. The [Southwest Rock & Roll Lab Tube Roller](#) was by far the most cost effective option we found, and it fit (just barely) in an existing incubator.

## Additional Materials:

| Material                                                                       | Amount Needed                                | Source                                 | Link                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Approx. Cost         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Qubit dsDNA Broad Range assay kit                                              | 1 reaction/sample + additional for standards | Fisher Scientific (Q32850)             | <a href="https://www.fishersci.com/shop/products/qubit-dsdna-hs-br-assay-kits/Q32850">https://www.fishersci.com/shop/products/qubit-dsdna-hs-br-assay-kits/Q32850</a>                                                                                             | \$115/100 reactions  |
| Sterile 3 mL luer lock syringes                                                | 1/sample                                     | BD, via Fisher Scientific (14-823-435) | <a href="https://www.fishersci.com/shop/products/bd-disposable-syringes-luer-lok-tips-3/14823435">https://www.fishersci.com/shop/products/bd-disposable-syringes-luer-lok-tips-3/14823435</a>                                                                     | \$21.60/200 syringes |
| Water, DNA Grade, DNASE, Protease free                                         | Variable                                     | Fisher Scientific (BP24701)            | <a href="https://www.fishersci.com/shop/products/water-dna-grade-dnase-protease-free-fisher-bioreagents/BP24701">https://www.fishersci.com/shop/products/water-dna-grade-dnase-protease-free-fisher-bioreagents/BP24701</a>                                       | \$30.05/1000 mL      |
| 1.5/2 mL LoBind Eppendorf tubes (either size works; prefer 1.5 mL for storage) | 3/sample                                     | USA Scientific (4043-1021/4043-1048)   | <a href="https://www.usascientific.com/dna-lobind-microcentrifuge-tubes/p/DNA-LB-Micro-Tubes">https://www.usascientific.com/dna-lobind-microcentrifuge-tubes/p/DNA-LB-Micro-Tubes</a>                                                                             | \$38.95/250 tubes    |
| Ethanol, Absolute (200 Proof), Molecular Biology Grade                         | Variable                                     | Fisher Scientific (BP2818500)          | <a href="https://www.fishersci.com/shop/products/ethanol-absolute-200-proof-molecular-biology-grade-fisher-bioreagents-3/BP2818500">https://www.fishersci.com/shop/products/ethanol-absolute-200-proof-molecular-biology-grade-fisher-bioreagents-3/BP2818500</a> | \$61.77/500 mL       |
| 5 mL LoBind Eppendorf Tubes                                                    | 1/sample                                     | USA Scientific (4011-8310)             | <a href="https://www.usascientific.com/eppendorf-tube-5-0-ml-dna-lobind/p/4011-8310">https://www.usascientific.com/eppendorf-tube-5-0-ml-dna-lobind/p/4011-8310</a>                                                                                               | \$68.5/200 tubes     |

|  | Material                         | Amount Needed                       | Source         | Link                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Approx. Cost             |
|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
|  | Qiagen DNeasy Blood & Tissue Kit | 1 reaction/sample                   | Qiagen (69506) | <a href="https://www.qiagen.com/us/products/discovery-and-translational-research/dna-rna-purification/dna-purification/genomic-dna/dneasy-blood-and-tissue-kit?catno=69506">https://www.qiagen.com/us/products/discovery-and-translational-research/dna-rna-purification/dna-purification/genomic-dna/dneasy-blood-and-tissue-kit?catno=69506</a> | \$692.3/250 preparations |
|  | Qubit tubes                      | 1/sample + additional for standards | Unknown        | NA                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Unknown                  |

#### Note

Due to the modifications to the Qiagen DNeasy Blood & Tissue Kit, some reagents are used in greater volumes than the manufacturer's protocol, and will run out before the kit is completed. Be prepared to order extra Proteinase K, Buffer ATL, and Buffer AL as needed.

## SAFETY WARNINGS



Taken directly from the Qiagen DNeasy Blood & Tissue Handbook:



HB-2061-003\_HB\_DNY\_Blood\_Tissue\_0720\_WW.pdf

When working with chemicals, always wear a suitable lab coat, disposable gloves and protective goggles. For more information, please consult the appropriate safety data sheets (SDSs). These are available online in convenient and compact PDF format at [www.qiagen.com/safety](http://www.qiagen.com/safety) where you can find, view and print the SDS for each QIAGEN kit and kit component.

### Safety information

Caution: DO NOT add bleach or acidic solutions directly to the sample preparation waste.

Buffers AL and AW1 contain guanidine salts, which can form highly reactive compounds when combined with bleach. If liquid containing these buffers is spilt, clean with a suitable laboratory detergent and water. If the spilt liquid contains potentially infectious agents, clean the affected area first with laboratory detergent and water, and then with 1% (v/v) sodium hypochlorite.

## Day 1 - DNA Lysing

- 1 Clean bench area with bleach, ethanol, and RNase away
- 2 Turn on incubator and set to 56°C
- 3 Wipe down 1000 µL and 200 µL pipettes with RNase Away and UV for 15 minutes on each side

- 4** Assemble materials and reagents needed:
- 1000 µL pipette tips (that fit in the inlet of the Sterivex)
  - 200 µL pipette tips
  - Proteinase K (from Qiagen DNeasy Blood & Tissue Kit)
  - ATL Buffer (from Qiagen DNeasy Blood & Tissue Kit)

- 5** Remove sterivex filters from -15°C freezer

**Note**

The roller shaker used (see MATERIALS) only fits 15 Sterivex filters, which creates a 16 sample extraction batch with an additional extraction blank added on Day 2. 16 samples could be well-balanced in the centrifuge used, leading to easier subsequent processing.

If processing a different number of filters, consider the subsequent processing steps (especially centrifuging) when deciding how many to extract at once.

- 6** For each filter:

- 6.1** Remove Sterivex from Whirl-Pak bag and remove cap from inlet end of Sterivex filter

- 6.2** Slowly pipette 80 µL of Proteinase K directly on top of the filter through the inlet, avoiding backslash by expelling slowly

- 6.3** Slowly pipette 720 µL of ATL buffer directly on top of the filter through the inlet, again avoiding backslash

- 6.4** Secure Sterivex with same luer cap

6.5 Handshake vigorously for several seconds

7 Place all filters onto roller shaker in incubator



*Sterivex arranged on roller shaker in incubator (Photo Credit: Meghan M. Shea)*



- 8 Incubate at 56°C for ~24 hours (minimum of 12 hours; try to incubate for the same amount of time for all filters for a particular project) while rotating at approximately 6 rpm

## Day 2 - DNA Extraction

- 9 Clean bench area (including vortex), centrifuge area, and centrifuge with bleach, ethanol, and RNase away.
- 10 Soak all tube racks in a 10% bleach solution, followed by 3 rinses with DI water. Let dry and UV for 15 minutes
- 11 UV Qubit and LoBind tubes for 15 minutes (in pre-sterilized tube racks) and label with sample numbers:
- Qubit: (# of samples+ extraction blank) + 2 for standards
  - 1.5/2 mL LoBind: (# of samples + extraction blank) \* 3
  - 5 mL LoBind: # of samples + extraction blank
  - Enough tubes (any type, does not need to be LoBind) to hold AE Buffer that fit in heat block (see Step 15), and to hold Qubit working solution (see Step 23.1)
- 12 Open and label additional tubes needed from Qiagen DNeasy Blood & Tissue Kit:
- Packaged spin columns: # of samples + extraction blank
  - Additional collection tubes: (# of samples + extraction blank) \* 2
- 13 Wipe down 1000 µl pipette, 200 µl pipette, 100 µl pipette, 10 µl pipette with RNase Away and UV for 15 minutes on each side
- 14 Place 50 mL tube of molecular-grade ethanol in freezer or on ice to chill for later use



- 15** Heat aliquot (volume calculation below) of AE buffer (from Qiagen DNeasy Blood & Tissue Kit) on heating block at 70°C
- Volume: (# of samples including blank \* 100 µl) \* 1.1*
- 16** Make cryo-labels for storage tubes (2 of 3 1.5/2 mL LoBind tubes already sterilized)
- 17** Assemble other reagents & materials needed:
- Sterile 3 mL syringes (one per sample)
  - AL Buffer (from Qiagen DNeasy Blood & Tissue Kit)
  - Buffer AW1 (from Qiagen DNeasy Blood & Tissue Kit)
  - Buffer AW2 (from Qiagen DNeasy Blood & Tissue Kit)
- 18** Remove Sterivex filters from incubator
- 19** Remove liquid from each filter:
- 19.1** Handshake vigorously for several seconds
- 19.2** Remove caps from filter
- 19.3** Using a sterile 3 mL syringe attached to the inlet end of the Sterivex, remove all liquid from filter, record the volume, and transfer into a 5 mL LoBind tube
- 20** Create an extraction blank by adding 1000 µL nuclease free water subbed in for extracted liquid

to a 5 mL LoBind tube

- 21** For each sample and extraction blank, add AL buffer and 0°C ethanol to the extracted liquid in a 1:1:1 ratio and vortex vigorously for 10 seconds
- 22** For each sample and extraction blank, filter the mixture through a spin column:
  - 22.1** Pipet the mixture (650 µl at a time) into a DNeasy Mini Spin column placed in a collection tube
  - 22.2** Spin in micro-centrifuge for 1 minute at 6000 x g (8000 rpm)
  - 22.3** Discard flow throw, and dab the rim of the spin column dry on a Kimwipe
  - 22.4** Repeat sub-steps of 22 until all sample is filtered through spin column
- 23** For each sample and extraction blank follow the remaining Qiagen DNeasy Tissue and Blood Kit steps:
  - 23.1** Place the spin column in a new collection tube, add 500 µl Buffer AW1

- 23.2** Centrifuge for 1 minute at 6000 x g (8000 rpm). Discard flow through and collection tube.
- 23.3** Place in new collection tube and add 500 µl Buffer AW2
- 23.4** Centrifuge for 3 min at 20,000 x g (14000 rpm) to dry the membrane
- 23.5** Discard flow through and dab rim of spin column on a clean Kimwipe
- 23.6** Place the spin column back in collection tube and centrifuge for 1 min at 20,000 x g (14000 rpm)
- 23.7** Transfer spin column to new 1.5/2 mL LoBind tube with cap left open
- 23.8** Place samples in 70°C heat block
- 23.9** Add 100 µl Buffer AE (4 samples at a time) directly over membrane

- 23.10** Immediately transfer tubes to room temperature
- 23.11** Incubate at room temperature for 10 minutes
- 23.12** Centrifuge for 1 min at 6000 x g (8000 rpm)
- 23.13** Re-elute DNA from DNA LoBind tube (apply eluate back on spin column while tubes are in heat block)
- 23.14** Incubate at room temperature for 10 minutes
- 23.15** Centrifuge for 1 min at 6000 x g (8000 rpm)
- 23.16** Discard the spin column

**Note**

Sample tubes should now contain a final volume of 100 µl of DNA extract

- 24** Aliquot 1 µl of each sample into labeled Qubit tubes

- 25** Transfer ~50 µl of remaining DNA extract to 2 pre-marked DNA LoBind tubes with lids intact:
- 1 archive tube to store at -80°C
  - 1 working tube to store at -15°C

**Note**

Aliquot to archive tube first, so that archive volumes are consistently 50 µl. Working tube volumes may be slightly less than 50 µl due to Qubit aliquot, etc.

- 26** Use Qubit to measure DNA concentrations in all samples:

- 26.1** Make Qubit working solution:

- Reagent:  $((\# \text{ of samples} + \text{extraction blank} + 2) * 1) * 1.1$
- Buffer:  $((\# \text{ of samples} + \text{extraction blank} + 2) * 199) * 1.1$

- 26.2** Vortex Qubit working solution

- 26.3** Add 199 µl of working solution to Qubit tubes containing sample DNA

- 26.4** Add 190 µl of working solution to Qubit tubes for 2 standards

- 26.5** Add 10 µl of respective standards to Qubit tubes for 2 standards

- 26.6** Mix all tubes gently by vortexing, being sure not to introduce bubbles

**26.7** Allow tubes to incubate at room temperature for 2 minutes

**26.8** Read samples with Qubit fluorometer and record DNA concentrations