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Protocol for use of Vertical Modified Moore Swab (VMMS) to Isolate Salmonella from Surface Water

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This protocol describes the use of vertical modified Moore swab (VMMS) to recover and isolate *Salmonella* from surface water.

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Vertical modified Moore swab (VMMS), salmonella, surface water

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Supplies Needed – General

- Geotech pump (Geotech #91352123) with EZ-Load II pump head
- Assorted lengths of Masterflex Silicone tubing, size 36
- Carboy for liquid waste collection
- Ringstand with adjustable clamps to hold cartridge
- Hose clamps, appropriate size for 36 tubing
- Sterilized graduated cylinders (500, 250 mL)
- Large Whirl-Pak® bags (

[🔗 Nasco Whirl-Pak™ Standard Sample Bags](#) Fisher

Scientific Catalog #Nasco B01195)

- Sterile forceps
- 1x Universal Pre-Enrichment Broth (

[🔗 Universal Pre-enrichment Broth](#) Dot

Scientific Catalog #7510A)

- Control strain, *Salmonella typhimurium* BIOBALL® Luminate (BioMerieux, #422190)

Supplies Needed – Cartridge Assembly

- Cheesecloth

[🔗 Lions Services Inc CHEESECLOTH GRADE90 2PLY 50YDS](#) Fisher

Scientific Catalog #50-395-11

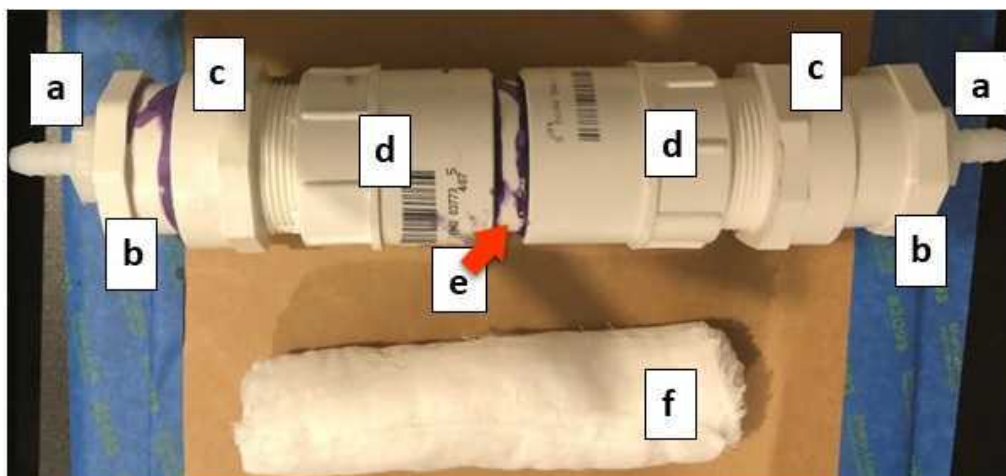
- 3/8" x 1/2" diameter Barbed Adapter Fitting (x2, Lowes #877100/NHB-300B)
- 1 1/2" x 1/2" PVC S40 SPxFIP Bush (x2, Fergusons #P40SFBID)
- 1 1/2" PVC DWV Male Adapter (x2, Fergusons #PDWVMAJ)
- 1 1/2" PVC S50 SxF Adapter (x2, Fergusons #P40SFAJ)
- 2-inch piece of 1 1/2" PVC 330 PSI Schedule 40 (Lowes #256098)
- Oatey for CPVC Purple Primer (Lowes/Fergusons #30756)
- Oatey Heavy Duty Clear PVC Cement (Lowes/Fergusons #30863)

Geotech Geopump II Peristaltic Pump
Peristaltic Pump

Geotech 91352123 [🔗](#)

VMMS Cartridge Assembly: End piece Assembly

1



Vertical Modified Moore Swab Cartridge assembly (parts a - e), and Modified Moore Swab (part f).

NOTE: All work with PVC primer and cement must be done in a fume-hood or other well-ventilated area.


Apply Purple Primer (Oatey 30756) to $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ in length of the bottom part of the cylindrical section of **part b (bushing, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x $\frac{1}{2}$ " PVC S40 SPxFIP Bush)**.

- 2 Apply purple primer to the inside, non-threaded end of **part c (male adapter, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ PVC DWV Male Adapter)**.
- 3 Reapply purple primer to the bottom part of the cylindrical section of **part b (bushing)** so that it receives two coats of purple primer.
- 4 Apply PVC Cement to the non-threaded end of **part c (male adapter)** over the purple primer.
- 5 Apply PVC Cement to the cylindrical section of **part b (bushing)**.
- 6 Reapply PVC Cement to the non-threaded end of **part c (male adapter)**.

7 Insert **part b** (bushing) into **part c** (made adapter) with force as far as bushing will insert. After inserting bushing, turn bushing ¼ turn to “lock” (solder) the bushing into the adapter, and leave upright to dry.

8 Repeat steps 1-7 for 2nd End piece Assembly.

9 

Allow cement to dry  **Overnight** .

VMMS Cartridge Assembly: Central Connector

10 Apply purple primer (Oatey 30756) to up to ½ to ¾ in end of the 2-in PVC piece (**part e**).

11 Apply purple primer to the non-threaded end of the SxF adapter (**part d**, 1 ½ PVC S50 SxF).

12 Apply PVC cement to non-threaded end of SxF adapter (**part d**).

13 Apply PVC cement to 2-in PVC (**part e**).

14 Reapply a second coat of PVC cement to non-threaded end of S x F adapter (**part d**).

15 Push adapter (**part d**) on to 2-in PVC piece (**part e**) as far as it will go.

16 Using the other end of the 2-in PVC piece (**part e**), repeat steps 10-14.

17 While pushing/placing the second adapter (**part d**) on to 2-in piece (**part e**), the assembly should be vertically rested on the first SxF adapter (**part d**). The second adapter should be pushed from the top

down on to 2-in piece (**part e**) (with force) until the entire Central Connector assembly measures 5.25 in. Adjustments to length can be made to in the first 1-2 minutes after the cement is applied.

18 

Allow the whole assembly to dry in a well-ventilated space  **Overnight** .

VMMS Cartridge Assembly: Barb to End piece

19

Wrap the threads of the barbed barb (**part a**) with Teflon tape.

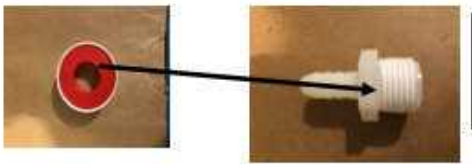


Figure 2. Teflon tape applied to barb.

20 Insert the barbed bard (**part a**) into the threads of the bushing (**part b**) of the entire end piece assembly and turn by hand (screw) until no more turns can be made.

21 Repeat for 2nd end piece.

VMMS Cartridge Assembly: End piece to Central Connector

22 Wrap threads of the male adapter (**part c**) of the *end piece assembly* with Teflon tape.



Figure 3. Teflon tape applied to part c.

23 Screw the male adapter (**part c**) into SxF adapter (**part d**) of the central connector assembly.

24 Repeat for second end piece.


Prepare the VMMS Cheesecloth Filters

- 25 On a large flat clean surface cut a piece of grade #90 cheesecloth to **74 cm x 92 cm**.
- 26 Fold the cheesecloth in half by 92 cm (now 74 cm x 46 cm).
- 27 Fold again into thirds, so the **finished product** will be **74 cm x 16 cm**.
- 28 **Tightly roll** the cheesecloth, along the 16-cm side.
- 29 Tightly roll each filter in aluminum foil and fold the ends over so that the cheesecloth doesn't lose its shape.
- 30 Autoclave the foil-wrapped filters on a dry cycle.

Disinfect the cartridges

- 31 Remove (unscrew) end pieces from central connector piece.
- 32 Remove barbed nozzles from end pieces.
- 33 Unroll all Teflon tape from the threads of barbed nozzles (**part a**) and the male adapter (**part c**).

34 

In a large, clean bin soak the cartridge pieces in 10% bleach  **Overnight**, making sure the bleach solution covers all parts.

35 Autoclave a foil-wrapped bin that is large enough to hold all the cartridges on a dry cycle.

36 Autoclave several liters of deionized water in a carboy with a spigot attachment.

You may want to wrap the spigot in foil, sterilize it separately and then screw it onto the carboy on the day of use.

37 The next day, remove the VMMS cartridge pieces **one at a time with gloved hands** and thoroughly rinse each piece with sterile deionized water. Turn the carboy spigot so that the water flows slowly.

38 **With fresh gloves**, carefully shake each piece to remove excess water and then place them in the large, sterilized bin – replacing the foil after each transfer. The cartridges will still be slightly wet, so place the bin in a BSC to dry.

39 Rethread Teflon tape around the threads of the barbed nozzles (**part a**) and the male adapter (**part c**).

40 Screw the bottom end piece into the central connector.

41 **With fresh gloves**, insert one of the sterile MMS into a disinfected cartridge.

42 Screw top end piece tightly.

43 Place the assembled MMS cartridge back into the sterile bin and re-cover with foil.

Filtration Protocol

31m

44 Secure one of the VMMS cartridges to a support stand and adjust the height. The Cartridge will be oriented vertically with tubing attached to the barbs at the top and bottom of the cartridge (Figure 1, a).

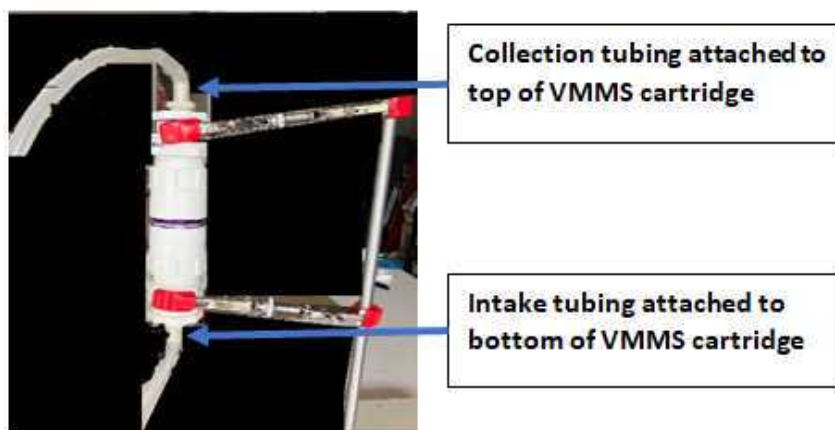





Figure 4. Connection of intake tubing (bottom, connected to part a) and collection tubing (top, part a) to a vertical Modified Moore Swab (VMMS) cartridge.

- 45 Using the Geotech pump and its accessories, place the sterilized intake tubing in the EZ Load pump head on the Geotech Pump. Then connect the outlet end of the intake sterilized hose to the bottom of the MMS cartridge over the barbed end.
- 46 
- If needed, add Control strain to  1 L surface water sample by gently tipping vial over the opening. Close sample bottle tightly and thoroughly mix sample before proceeding.
- 47 Place the inlet end of the intake tubing into the 1 L bottle containing surface water.
- 48 Connect collection tubing to the top of the MMS cartridge and place the outlet end in a collection container. Use a collection container sufficient to hold up to 1 L of filtrate.
- 49 Turn the pump on and set the pump rate to 3/4 of maximum flow rate (use the dial). Once water is flowing into tube, then the pump speed can be slowed by 5 “clicks” (turn to the left) to maintain a constant flow.
- 50 After  1 L has been pumped through the tubing, turn the pump off.
- 51 Position the waste container (containing a 10% bleach solution) underneath the MMS cartridge on the support stand and carefully disconnect the collection tubing from the top of MMS cartridge to retrieve the MMS. Allow water in collection tubing to drain to collection vessel.


52 Place the collection tubing into the waste container and let sit for at least  00:30:00 . 30m

53 Remove (Unscrew) the top piece (male adapter with barb) of the MMS cartridge from the central connector and carefully place it in the waste container as well.

54 Using sterile forceps aseptically transfer the MMS filter into its pre-labelled 55 oz Whirl-Pak® bag and place the forceps in the waste container.

55 Carefully disconnect the intake tubing and place both the intake tubing and the cartridge in the waste container.

56 

Using a sterile graduated cylinder, add  100 mL 1 X UPB into each Whirl-Pak® sample bag containing a MMS.

57 

1m

Massage entire length of MMS in UPB for  00:01:00 and incubate at  37 °C for 18-24 h.

Note: For next steps, refer to “Selective Enrichment Protocol for *Salmonella* Isolation from Surface Water”.