

# ON YOUR MARK

## Decontaminate the Outer Resealable Plastic Bag

It is very important to ensure your samples are prepared for decontamination. Samples can be decontaminated individually or as a group. If done as a group, place the samples into a second, larger resealable plastic bag. If done individually, place into a second resealable bag of the same size.

Always remove as much air as possible from the bags as they cannot be opened once decontaminated and removed from the containment area. This is important to help facilitate packaging multiple samples in small shipping containers.

# GET SET

## Assemble Decontamination Materials



Household Bleach



White Vinegar



Water



Bucket or Container



Disposable Paper Towels

# DECONTAMINATE Steps

CHECK OFF EACH STEP AS COMPLETED

- 1** In the bucket, mix **one** part **household bleach** with **five** parts **water**.



- 2** Add **one** part **white vinegar**.



- 3** Add **three** parts of additional **water**.



- 4** Submerge item to be decontaminated in the solution for **10 minutes**.



- 5** Thoroughly dry the outside of the item.

*Note: Once the outer resealable plastic bag is decontaminated, it should not be opened outside of appropriate containment.*



- Transport all samples to the processing laboratory on wet ice or on cold packs.  
**Note: Samples may be stored at 36°F to 46°F, but should be processed within 48 hours of collection.**
- Appropriate chain-of-custody forms and analytical-request forms should be included with each shipment sent to the processing laboratory.
- Containers used to transport the samples should be prepared and shipped according to the appropriate regulations for transporting infectious substances.
- The most current Code of Federal Regulations, International Air Transport Association guidelines, and other appropriate regulatory or guidance publications should be consulted for complete instructions.
- The shipper is responsible for ensuring adherence to the most current and appropriate regulations.

See these sources for additional information about shipping regulations:

- **U.S. Department of Transportation (HazMat Regulations)**  
***<http://phmsa.dot.gov/regulations>***
- **International Airline Transportation Association (IATA)**  
***<http://www.iata.org/whatwedo/cargo/dgr/Pages/index.aspx>***
- **U.S. Postal Service, Domestic Mail Manual (DMM)**  
***[http://pe.usps.com/text/dmm300/dmm300\\_landing.htm](http://pe.usps.com/text/dmm300/dmm300_landing.htm)***