

## Solid Phase Extraction of Pesticides from Fruits and Vegetables, for Analysis by GC or HPLC

Recovery rates for polar analytes, including carbamate and thiourea pesticides, are higher and less variable with ENVI-Carb carbon-based solid phase extraction tubes than with C8- or C18- silica-based tubes. Independent investigators found ENVI-Carb tubes to be an effective part of sample cleanup for more than 200 organochlorine, organophosphorus, nitrogen-containing, and carbamate pesticides, from many fruits and vegetables. ENVI-Carb tubes enabled these investigators to recover several pesticides they could not recover from charcoal/Celite minicolumns, and eliminated their labor-intensive minicolumn preparation process. Analysis for most of these pesticides is by GC; 10 carbamates are analyzed by HPLC.

### Key Words:

- pesticides • organochlorine pesticides
- organophosphorus pesticides
- nitrogen-containing pesticides • carbamate pesticides
- sample preparation • solid phase extraction

Concern over pesticide residues in fruits and vegetables has led to the development of many methods for monitoring these compounds. At the same time, regulatory agencies and concerned analysts are attempting to reduce the amounts of organic solvents used in sample preparation. Solid phase extraction (SPE) has proven very effective for cleaning, extracting and concentrating pollutants in analyses of environmental samples. Currently, many SPE methods for extracting pollutants from aqueous environmental samples employ octyl (C8) or octadecyl (C18) phases bonded to a silica support. Using these materials, nonpolar analytes can be recovered at high rates and with good reproducibility. Often, however, acidic, basic, and other polar analytes (e.g., carbamate and thiourea pesticides) are recovered at low rates when typical reversed phase extraction conditions are used.

Relative to traditional liquid-liquid extraction or SPE with C8 or C18 silica-based packings, SPE tubes containing ENVI™-Carb carbon-based packing provide superior, more uniform recovery of polar analytes, and comparable results for less polar compounds. Typical results for polar pesticides are summarized in Table 1.

Physical characteristics of ENVI-Carb carbon and C8- or C18-modified silica are listed in Table 2. Because the carbon-based packing is nonporous, samples can be processed rapidly—adsorption does not require dispersion of analytes into porous regions. Furthermore, although the surface area of the nonporous carbon is smaller than that of the porous silica (measured by

nitrogen BET), the carbon's capacity for pesticides is not compromised. The bed weight typically required is only one half that needed with the silica-based packings.

**Table 1. Pesticides Recovery Is Highest Using ENVI-Carb SPE Tubes**

Analyte	Recovery ( mean % $\pm$ standard deviation)		
	Solid Phase Extraction ENVI-Carb <sup>n=5</sup>	C8/C18 Silica <sup>*</sup> n=4	Liquid/Liquid Extraction <sup>*</sup> n=4
Oxamyl	95 $\pm$ 5	53 $\pm$ 1	55 $\pm$ 16
Methomyl	97 $\pm$ 5	43 $\pm$ 1	74 $\pm$ 8
Aldicarb	96 $\pm$ 3	67 $\pm$ 8	88 $\pm$ 8
Monuron	97 $\pm$ 4	90 $\pm$ 6	90 $\pm$ 4
Carbaryl	98 $\pm$ 5	74 $\pm$ 15	102 $\pm$ 13
Diuron	98 $\pm$ 6	90 $\pm$ 6	94 $\pm$ 3

1 liter water samples, HPLC/UV analyses

<sup>n</sup> Data from Supelco laboratories.

\* Data from B.E. Goodby, *Environmental Laboratory*, June/July 1990, pp 19-58.

**Table 2. Physical Characteristics of ENVI-Carb Carbon and Silica-Based SPE Packings**

ENVI-Carb Carbon	C8- & C18-Modified Silica
graphitized carbon black	silane phase-modified silica gel
hydrophobic	hydrophobic
irregular particles, 40-100 $\mu$ m	irregular particles, 40-60 $\mu$ m
nonporous	porous (60-300 $\text{\AA}$ )
surface area: 100m <sup>2</sup> /g	surface area: 400-600m <sup>2</sup> /g

Investigators at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Ottawa, Ontario) have developed a multiple-residue cleanup and analysis for monitoring more than 200 organochlorine, organophosphorus, nitrogen-containing, and carbamate pesticides in fruits and vegetables. Their flexible system allows rapid screening of "rush" samples (Table 3) as well as thorough cleanup of complex (high background) samples. Initially, these investigators used an extraction procedure that included extraction minicolumns containing a mixture of charcoal and Celite® (1), but ENVI-Carb tubes enabled them to recover several pesticides that they could not recover from the charcoal/Celite adsorbent. This led them to replace the charcoal/Celite minicolumns with ENVI-Carb SPE tubes, eliminating the labor-intensive process of preparing the minicolumns. The Canadian investigators' data in Table 4 summarize a comparison of pesticide recoveries from ENVI-Carb tubes and charcoal/Celite minicolumns, and include typical recovery rates from pesticide-spiked fruits and vegetables, using ENVI-Carb tubes. Analytes that could not be recovered from charcoal/Celite minicolumns are in bold print. A typical analysis, using C18, ENVI-Carb, and aminopropyl SPE tubes, is shown in Figure A.

**Table 3. Extraction of Pesticides from Fruits and Vegetables ("Rush" Samples)**

1. Homogenize 50g chopped sample with 100mL acetonitrile (e.g., Omni-mixer, half-speed, 5 min).
2. Add 10g sodium chloride (= 8mL in a graduated cylinder). Homogenize 5 min.<sup>□</sup>
3. Transfer ~13mL of acetonitrile (top) layer to 15mL graduated centrifuge tube.
4. Add ~3g sodium sulfate (liquid level to 15mL mark), cap, shake well to remove water.
5. Centrifuge at high speed for 5 min.
6. Transfer 10mL aliquot (= 5g of sample) to a clean 15mL tube.<sup>▲</sup> Evaporate to 0.5mL under **clean** nitrogen (water bath, 35°C).
7. Transfer to ENVI-Carb SPE tube (6mL tube, 500mg packing).<sup>▼</sup>
8. Elute pesticides with 20mL acetonitrile/toluene (3:1).<sup>♦</sup>
9. Using a rotary evaporator, concentrate sample to ~2mL. Add 2 x 10mL acetone, concentrating the material to ~2mL after each addition, to make a solvent exchange to acetone.
10. Transfer quantitatively to a clean 15mL tube. Add 50μL internal standard (50ng/μL cis-chlordane in acetone), then bring volume to 2.5mL with acetone (final concentrations = 2g/mL extract, 1.0ng/μL cis-chlordane).

**GC/mass-specific detection (for organochlorine, organophosphorus, nitrogen-containing pesticides)**

1. Set aside 0.5mL final extract for GC/MSD analysis. For chromatography, see reference 1.

**HPLC/postcolumn derivatization/fluorescence detection (for carbamates)**

1. Concentrate remaining 2.0mL final extract to 0.2mL.
2. Add 20μL internal standard (40ng/μL isoprocarb in methanol), then bring volume to 0.8mL with water (pH 3.0 with 36.5–38% HCl/water, 1:4), filter with 0.45μm pore filter (final concentration = 1.0ng/μL isoprocarb).

For chromatography, see reference 2.

<sup>□</sup> The routine procedure includes a C18 clean-up step after step 2. Condition a 6mL/500mg Bond Elut C18 tube with acetonitrile followed by ~2mL aliquot of the acetonitrile layer (discard), then elute ~13mL of the acetonitrile layer into a 15mL graduated centrifuge tube. Proceed to step 4.

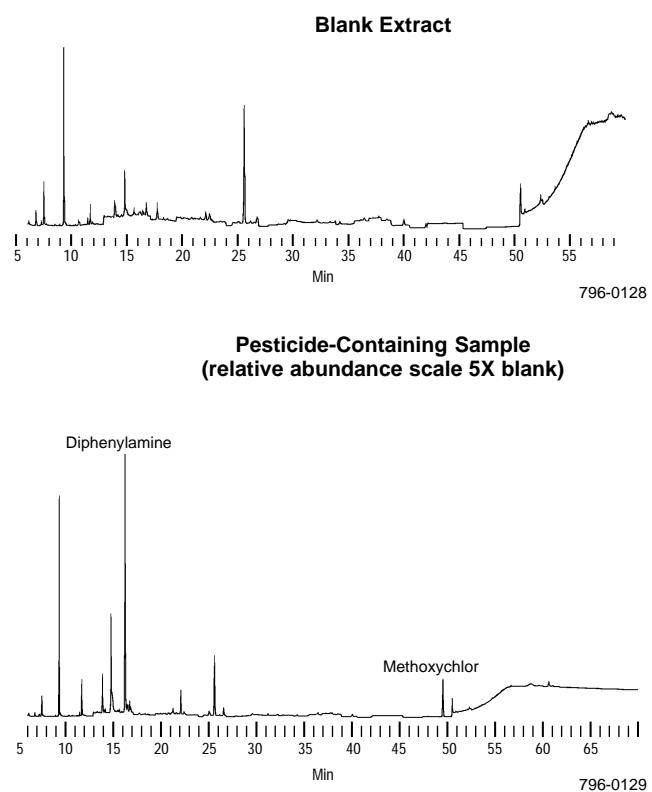
<sup>▲</sup> For rush samples, when analysis of carbamates is not required, use a 4mL aliquot.

<sup>▼</sup> In the routine procedure an aminopropyl Sep-Pak cartridge is coupled to the outlet of the ENVI-Carb tube.

<sup>♦</sup> If samples do not contain any of the following: acephate, bromophos-ethyl, Captan, chlorothiophos, Coumaphos, dichlofluanid, hexachlorobenzene, iodofenphos, leptophos, pyrazophos, quintozene, tolyfluanid, the volume of elution solvent can be reduced to 5mL.

In the preparation of a fruit or vegetable extract for multiple-residue analysis, additional purification may be necessary to reduce background in the chromatogram. Remove nonpolar interferences from the sample matrix by adding a C18 clean-up step (see footnotes to Table 3). Except for Mirex, recoveries are similar to those obtained by using an ENVI-Carb tube alone. Remove polar interferences by coupling an SPE tube containing an aminopropyl-silica adsorbent to the ENVI-Carb tube (see footnotes to Table 3). Except for Folpet, pesticide recovery is equal to recovery from an ENVI-Carb tube alone.

**Figure A. Pesticides in Apple (Total Ion Chromatograms)**



Chromatograms provided by J. Fillion, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Laboratory Services Division, Pesticide Laboratory), Ottawa, Ontario.

In the Canadian group's sample-screening applications, the analysis for organochlorine, organophosphorus, and nitrogen-containing pesticides (more than 200 compounds) is by capillary gas chromatography with mass-specific detection; residues are identified by retention time and ion ratios. Analysis for 10 carbamates is by HPLC with UV detection. Analytes monitored in each GC run (approximately 115 compounds and 80 compounds, respectively) are listed, along with recovery rates and limits of detection, in (1). Postcolumn derivatization and HPLC columns and conditions are described in (2).

Solid phase extraction of environmental samples on ENVI-Carb tubes offers several significant advantages over liquid/liquid extraction or solid phase extraction on silica-based packings. Relative to liquid/liquid extractions, SPE eliminates the need for expensive glassware, large volumes of solvent, and long preparation times. Visiprep™ vacuum manifolds automate the technique, for processing 1-12 or 1-24 samples simultaneously. Relative to SPE on silica-based SPE packings, ENVI-Carb tubes offer superior, more consistent recovery for a wide range of organic pollutants.

**Table 4. Recovery of Pesticides, Using ENVI-Carb SPE Tubes**

Analyte	Level (ppm)	Extraction Media Compared		Typical Recovery from ENVI-Carb Tubes (mean %)		
		ENVI-Carb Tube* (mean % ± % C.V.)	Charcoal/Celite** (mean % ± % C.V.)	Pineapple	Sweet Potato	Green Pea
Acephate	0.25	70	8	67	42	77
Alachlor	0.1	95	11	97	11	97
Aldrin	0.1	82	11	88	13	95
Allethrin	0.1	NA	NA	87	8	—
Ametryn	0.1	103	4	88	6	101
Aspon	0.1	82	17	91	16	100
Atrazine	0.1	91	9	98	16	83
Atrazine de-ethyl	0.1	85	11	93	14	75
Azinphos-ethyl	0.1	95	12	99	55	80
Azinphos-methyl	0.25	108	16	76	8	88
Benfluralin	0.1	81	14	82	12	95
Benzoylprop-ethyl	0.1	NA	NA	90	6	—
□-BHC	0.1	87	9	85	11	94
□-BHC	0.1	92	10	93	12	96
Bifenox	0.1	NA	NA	87	7	—
Bromacil	0.5	105	5	85	7	104
Bromophos	0.1	93	11	72	24	98
Bromophos-ethyl	0.1	94	12	95	13	101
Bromopropylate	0.1	100	9	89	6	96
Butralin	0.1	NA	NA	88	8	—
Butylate	0.1	67	11	59	25	66
Captafol	0.5	103	7	87	10	114
Captan	0.5	87	9	71	69	69
Carbophenothion	0.1	95	13	93	16	97
Carboxin	0.1	80	21	53	36	91
Chlorbenside	0.1	90	15	75	20	97
trans-Chlordane	0.1	86	11	95	11	102
Chlordimeform	0.1	98	3	79	5	95
Chlorfenson	0.1	97	13	97	17	—
Chlorfenvinphos (e)	0.1	106	19	99	16	100
Chlorfenvinphos (z)	0.1	108	21	99	14	99
Chlorflurenol-methyl	0.1	105	5	80	6	105
Chlormephos	0.1	70	10	61	14	69
Chlorobenzilate	0.1	106	4	89	6	108
Chlorobromuron	0.25	96	7	120	17	ND
<b>Chlorothalonil</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	99
Chlorpropham	0.1	90	9	94	14	95
Chlorpyrifos	0.1	90	10	93	13	99
Chlorpyrifos-methyl	0.1	91	9	80	11	99
Chlorthal-dimethyl	0.1	94	11	98	12	99
Chlorthiophos	0.1	95	12	96	12	100
Chlozolinate	0.1	NA	NA	84	7	—
Clomazone	0.1	99	5	86	7	105
Coumaphos	0.25	107	9	79	6	96
Crotoxyphos	0.1	106	12	83	8	102
Crufomate	0.25	109	11	88	6	105
Cyanazine	0.1	87	8	96	14	98
Cyanophos	0.1	91	11	89	14	98
Cycloate	0.1	84	11	70	15	103
Cyfluthrin 1	0.5	98	3	83	7	108
Cyfluthrin 4	0.5	97	9	81	6	99
Cypermethrin 1	0.5	100	5	83	7	106
Cypermethrin 4	0.5	97	7	82	6	106
Cyprazine	0.1	104	4	90	7	99
4,4'-DDD	0.1	103	7	89	6	—
4,4'-DDE	0.1	90	13	94	14	100
2,4'-DDT	0.1	93	11	92	13	99
4,4'-DDT	0.1	89	13	91	17	97
Deltamethrin	0.5	99	13	79	7	101
Demeton	0.1	58	40	65	31	70
Demeton-S-methyl	0.1	91	4	72	15	102
Desmetryn	0.1	93	10	92	14	98
Dialifos	0.1	103	4	90	6	102
Di-allate 1	0.1	89	9	84	9	92
Di-allate 2	0.1	90	10	85	19	94
Diazinon	0.1	91	10	93	25	95
Dichlobenil	0.1	68	10	59	26	66
Dichlofenthion	0.1	89	10	92	10	98
Dichlofluaniid	0.1	100	13	69	79	101
Dichlormid	0.1	78	11	68	12	79
						98
						74

**Table 4. Recovery of Pesticides, Using ENVI-Carb SPE Tubes (contd.)**

Analyte	Level (ppm)	Extraction Media Compared		Typical Recovery from ENVI-Carb Tubes (mean %)		
		ENVI-Carb Tube* (mean % ± % C.V.)	Charcoal/Celite** (mean % ± % C.V.)	Pineapple	Sweet Potato	Green Pea
Dichlorvos-Naled	0.1	78	10	61	15	76
<b>Dicloran</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>ND</b>	<b>ND</b>	93
Dicofol	0.1	95	15	82	17	100
Dicrotophos	0.1	90	11	93	27	100
Dieldrin	0.1	93	11	97	15	—
Dimethachlor	0.1	103	3	90	6	—
Dimethoate	0.1	89	8	95	17	100
Dinitramine	0.1	104	7	86	9	91
Dioxathion	0.1	88	8	92	10	96
Diphenamid	0.1	104	5	90	5	106
<b>Diphenylamine</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>ND</b>	<b>ND</b>	81
Disulfoton	0.1	64	35	76	13	94
Endosulfan-I	0.1	91	10	98	14	98
Endosulfan-II	0.1	96	13	99	13	99
Endosulfan sulfate	0.1	93	10	93	18	98
Endrin	0.1	97	12	97	14	91
EPN	0.1	101	13	96	22	96
EPTC	0.1	66	10	55	28	62
Erbon	0.1	101	9	76	9	104
Ethalfluralin	0.1	82	11	85	14	92
Ethion	0.1	99	14	95	19	98
Ethoprophos	0.1	96	7	84	9	107
Ethylan	0.1	101	8	88	7	106
Etridiazol	0.1	NA	NA	48	25	—
Etrimfos	0.1	102	3	86	8	106
Fenamiphos	0.1	106	14	79	11	102
Fenarimol	0.1	98	5	87	6	103
Fenchlorphos	0.1	90	10	72	20	98
Fenitrothion	0.1	102	16	76	39	102
Fenson	0.1	102	2	88	6	107
Fensulfothion	0.25	111	13	85	7	108
Fenthion	0.1	79	23	87	14	99
Fenvalerate 1	0.1	96	8	79	7	98
Fenvalerate 2	0.1	97	12	77	7	106
Flamprop-methyl	0.1	NA	NA	89	6	—
Fluchloralin	0.1	103	10	86	9	105
Folpet	0.5	91	12	73	81	92
Fonofos	0.1	89	11	88	11	97
□HCH	0.1	101	5	82	9	—
Heptachlor	0.1	83	11	83	19	94
Heptachlor epoxide	0.25	100	6	89	6	106
Heptanofos	0.1	95	5	82	9	104
<b>Hexachlorobenzene</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>ND</b>	<b>ND</b>	55
Hexazinone	0.1	97	12	101	21	90
Iodofenphos	0.1	103	16	69	32	95
Iprodione	0.1	105	6	78	7	109
Isofenphos	0.1	101	16	96	16	99
Leptophos	0.1	100	5	69	6	102
□BHC (Lindane)	0.1	89	10	89	10	98
Linuron	0.5	100	8	106	12	102
Malaoxon	0.1	102	18	101	49	106
Malathion	0.1	100	17	92	22	101
Metalaxyll	0.1	95	10	99	13	98
Metazachlor	0.1	104	6	88	6	109
Methamidophos	0.5	73	2	62	7	72
Methidathion	0.1	107	22	90	18	94
Methoprotyn	0.1	108	7	85	6	102
Methoxychlor	0.1	95	12	97	15	98
Methyl Trithion	0.1	106	7	78	8	101
Metobromuron	0.1	105	9	95	10	114
Metolachlor	0.1	95	11	98	14	101
Metribuzin	0.1	91	9	65	34	74
cis-Mevinphos	0.1	89	9	88	18	98
trans-Mevinphos	0.1	91	9	91	16	98
Mirex	0.1	84	17	94	15	98
Monocrotophos	0.1	94	8	81	7	105
Monolinuron	0.1	101	7	94	9	101
Myclobutanil	0.1	105	6	87	6	105
Nitralin	0.1	104	11	101	8	104
Nitrapyrin	0.1	NA	NA	52	23	—

**Table 4. Recovery of Pesticides, Using ENVI-Carb SPE Tubes (contd.)**

Analyte	Level (ppm)	Extraction Media Compared		Typical Recovery from ENVI-Carb Tubes (mean %)		
		ENVI-Carb Tube* (mean % ± % C.V.)	Charcoal/Celite** (mean % ± % C.V.)	Pineapple	Sweet Potato	Green Pea
Nitrofen	0.1	113	22	93	29	98
Nitrothal-isopropyl	0.1	NA	NA	86	8	—
Norflurazon	0.1	105	7	83	7	104
Omethoate	0.25	69	12	74	84	93
Oxadiazon	0.1	101	6	89	6	92
Oxycarboxin	0.1	93	27	87	5	101
Oxychlorodane	0.25	97	8	89	7	105
Oxyfluorfen	0.1	110	10	87	8	112
Paraoxon	0.25	107	8	84	7	111
Parathion	0.1	111	23	89	28	99
Parathion-methyl	0.1	93	15	73	14	96
Pebulate	0.1	69	18	53	24	93
Pendimethalin	0.1	106	8	88	8	—
cis-Permethrin	0.1	86	20	97	18	98
trans-Permethrin	0.1	87	19	97	20	95
Phenthaoate	0.1	104	7	85	8	105
Phorate	0.1	75	21	77	11	88
Phosalone	0.1	94	12	98	17	95
Phosmet	0.1	92	12	88	26	93
Phosphamidon	0.1	92	10	102	15	90
Pirimicarb	0.1	92	10	95	11	64
Pirimiphos-ethyl	0.1	93	11	95	21	98
Pirimiphos-methyl	0.1	93	11	94	15	94
Procymidone	0.1	98	15	99	13	99
Profenofos	0.1	109	21	97	19	100
Profluralin	0.1	82	12	87	23	95
Prometon	0.1	104	3	86	6	81
Prometryn	0.1	95	11	96	14	100
<b>Propanil</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>ND</b>	<b>ND</b>	134
Propargite	0.1	98	4	90	6	105
Propazine	0.1	90	9	98	18	87
Propetamphos	0.1	102	7	88	7	108
Propiconazole 1	0.1	104	6	85	7	107
Propiconazole 2	0.1	103	4	86	7	105
Propyzamide	0.1	91	10	93	9	94
Prothiofos	0.25	100	6	88	6	108
Pyrazophos	0.1	96	11	87	25	93
Quinalophos	0.1	107	19	97	13	98
Quintozone	0.1	85	9	82	15	91
Schradan	0.25	NA	NA	56	21	—
Simazine	0.1	100	16	95	2	80
Sulfotep	0.1	88	11	88	19	93
TCMTB	0.1	NA	NA	72	9	—
Tecnazene	0.1	80	10	71	18	81
Terbacil	0.25	104	4	87	6	97
Terbufos	0.1	82	11	84	9	93
Terbutryn	0.1	92	13	95	12	94
Terbutylazine	0.1	92	9	97	13	86
Tetrachlorvinphos	0.1	103	17	98	16	97
Tetradifon	0.1	95	12	100	19	98
Tetramethrin 1	0.1	104	6	86	6	101
Tetramethrin 2	0.1	103	6	87	7	105
Tolyfluanid	0.1	100	12	73	36	99
Triadimefon	0.1	101	15	97	12	—
Triadimenol	0.1	103	7	86	6	107
Triallate	0.1	90	9	90	11	98
Triazophos	0.1	104	7	86	6	104
Trifluralin	0.1	81	13	84	16	96
Vernolate	0.1	67	16	52	23	96
Vinclozolin	0.1	93	11	97	12	101

Extraction procedure per Table 3, except steps 7 and 8 (ENVI-Carb vs charcoal/Celite):

\*6mL ENVI-Carb SPE Tube (500 mg packing); eluant: 20mL acetonitrile/toluene 3:1; matrices: banana, pear; n = 6.

\*\*2g charcoal/Celite (1:4); eluant: 50mL acetonitrile/toluene 3:1; matrices: banana, pear, carrot; n = 9 or 12.

NA – data not available

ND – not detected

## Ordering Information:

Description	Cat. No.
<b>ENVI-Carb Solid Phase Extraction Tubes</b>	
3mL, 250mg packing, pk. of 54	<b>57088</b>
6mL, 250mg packing, pk. of 30	<b>57092</b>
6mL, 500mg packing, pk. of 30	<b>57094</b>
<b>AutoTrace SPE Tube Adapters</b>	
For using ENVI-Carb tubes with Zymark® AutoTrace unit.	
3mL, pk. of 6	<b>57123</b>
6mL, pk. of 6	<b>57126</b>

## Visiprep Vacuum Manifolds▲

For processing 1-12 or 1-24 samples simultaneously. For details, and descriptions of other models, refer to the current Supelco catalog and request publication 495121.

12-Port model	<b>57030-U</b>
24-Port model	<b>57250-U</b>
12-Port model with disposable valve liners	<b>57044</b>
24-Port model with disposable valve liners	<b>57265</b>

▲US Pat. Nos. D. 289,861; 4,810,471; other patents pending.

For our complete list of solid phase extraction tubes, request publication 412130.

## References

1. Fillion, J., R. Hindle, M. Lacroix, and J. Selwyn, *Journal AOAC International*, **78**: 1252-1266 (1995).
2. Chaput, D., *J. Assoc. Official Analytical Chemists*, **71**: 542-546 (1988). References not available from Supelco.

## Acknowledgment

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## Trademarks

ENVI, Visiprep – Sigma-Aldrich Co.  
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