

Finn Chambers® for Patch Testing

Patch testing usually involves the use of standardized chemical allergens in an aqueous (e.g., formaldehyde) or petrolatum base (e.g., fragrance mix).

A patient's own products may also be used.

Supplemental food allergy and atopy test protocols may involve the use of glycerinated allergen extracts (e.g., dust mites) or fresh food preparations (e.g., cow's milk).



Selecting Finn Chambers:

Aluminum chambers are available already mounted on tape for optimized skin adhesion, comfort, patient acceptability and ease of use.

Finn Chambers are nonsterile, and available in strips of 10 (2 x 5), 5 (1 x 5) or as single chambers mounted on hypoallergenic Scanpor tape.

Loose chambers are available in 8 mm, 12 mm and 18 mm sizes, to provide the ultimate flexibility in regulating allergen contact and skin exposure. These chambers may be affixed to the skin with Scanpor or other commercially available patch testing tapes.

Preparing Finn Chambers:

Semisolids:

Applied directly to the chamber; fill more than 50% of the chamber volume.

Liquids:

Place a filter paper disc in the chamber and moisten thoroughly.

Work-Related and Personal Care Products:

Dilute products as needed to avoid irritant or strong reactions and apply immediately.

Be sure to number the test strip chamber sites for later identification.

Applying Finn Chambers:

Skin should be clean, healthy, and free of ointments, lotions, powders, acne, dermatitis, scars, hair or any other condition that might interfere.

The patient should stand or sit in a relaxed position with the back bent slightly forward. Apply prepared patches to the upper back adjacent to the vertebrae. An alternative application site is the outer surface of the upper arm.

Affix tape to the skin at the lower end and slowly roll patches up the back, pushing out air. Gently press chambers to skin to ensure an even distribution of allergens. Rub Scanpor tape gently but firmly to ensure good adherence. Check test site numbering.

Patients should refrain from exposing patch tests to excess moisture or sweat and should return for patch test removal in 48 hours.

Removing Finn Chambers:

Mark the strip or chamber location prior to removal.

Remove Finn Chambers from skin contact and verify occlusion (the ring-shaped depression around each test). Read skin reactions not less than 20 minutes after removal.

A second and third skin reaction reading is advised at 72 and/or 96 hours after patch test placement. Observing changes in skin reactions may help differentiate allergic from irritant reactions.

Use the reading plate to locate and identify later reactions by aligning the top left corner of the reading plate either to the remaining tape strip or skin marking.

Finn Chamber Accessories:

- Finn Chamber Reading Plates help locate test sites and identify reactions.
- Finn Chamber trays keep strips organized and protected and stack to save workspace. Washable and reusable.
- Clear plastic covers reduce potential contamination and evaporation when preparing patch tests in advance. Washable and reusable.