

# ENVIRONMENTAL EXPRESS

## Color Coded Surrogates FAQ's

Q: What do Color Coded Surrogates do for the lab?

A: Our surrogates are an indicator that the surrogates have been added to the sample and the general pH range of the sample. Let's say the analyst is adding surrogates to multiple samples, gets distracted and looks away. The indicator is a sure sign of addition. No double spikes or none at all.

Q: Why do the concentrations appear smaller than what I am used to?

A: To obtain a good color and color change a volume of 1ml is recommended. They are "point of use" standards and no dilutions are required. Simply add 1ml to each sample.

Q: What is the range of the pH?

A: Color transition from Red (acidic) to Yellow (basic/neutral) occurs around a pH of 4. The analyst should verify pH with a test strip that for Acid extraction is less than 2 and Base/Neutral is above 12.

Q: How does the surrogate react with an emulsification?

A: Use normal methods to break emulsion. Stirring, shaking or sodium sulfate will help. It is preferential to perform the Acid Extraction first. Emulsification does not typically occur under these circumstances.

Q: What is the cost savings?

A: Color coded surrogates are designed to save the laboratory labor and re-extractions. These surrogates require no dilutions therefore eliminating the time and glassware to perform dilutions. Also, the transfer steps reduce contamination. Also, when a batch of samples has to be re-extracted because of a missed addition or double addition, the cost to the lab is large.

