

FTIR Sample Handling

Dr. Linda Scott Cummings
Paleo Research Institute
2675 Youngfield St.
Golden, CO 80401
(303) 277-9848 phone

Samples or artifacts that might be considered for FTIR analysis at any time in the future should be handled differently than others.

DO NOT USE:

Sharpies/Markers/Pens
White-out
Fingernail Polish or Remover
Tobacco
Plastic bags
Tape
Glue
Bubble Wrap

DO USE:

Paper Bags
Pencil
Staples
Aluminum Foil
Paper Clips
Shredded Paper Packing Material
Cardboard
Soy (non-Styrofoam) Packing Peanuts

FTIR is a fairly new form of analysis and, unfortunately, old methods of curation tend to foul up the highly sensitive equipment. If your samples have been contaminated by one of the above items, we will need to allow it to “off-gas” before it can be analyzed, delaying your project by several weeks. In some cases, incorrect handling or curating will completely negate our ability to perform an FTIR analysis particularly if the sample has been written on directly.

Remember, if you can smell it when it's new, our FTIR machine can smell it when it's really old.

Guide to FTIR curation

- 1. Do not write on the sample directly**
- 2. Wrap the sample in aluminum foil**
- 3. Place the sample in a paper bag**
- 4. Label the bag in pencil only**
- 5. Secure the bag with staples or paperclips NOT tape**

If your sample has ever been in a plastic bag and you are moving it to a paper bag before sending it to us, please let us know that it was in plastic prior to its arrival. *Samples must be free of plastic for at least two weeks before they can be considered for FTIR.*