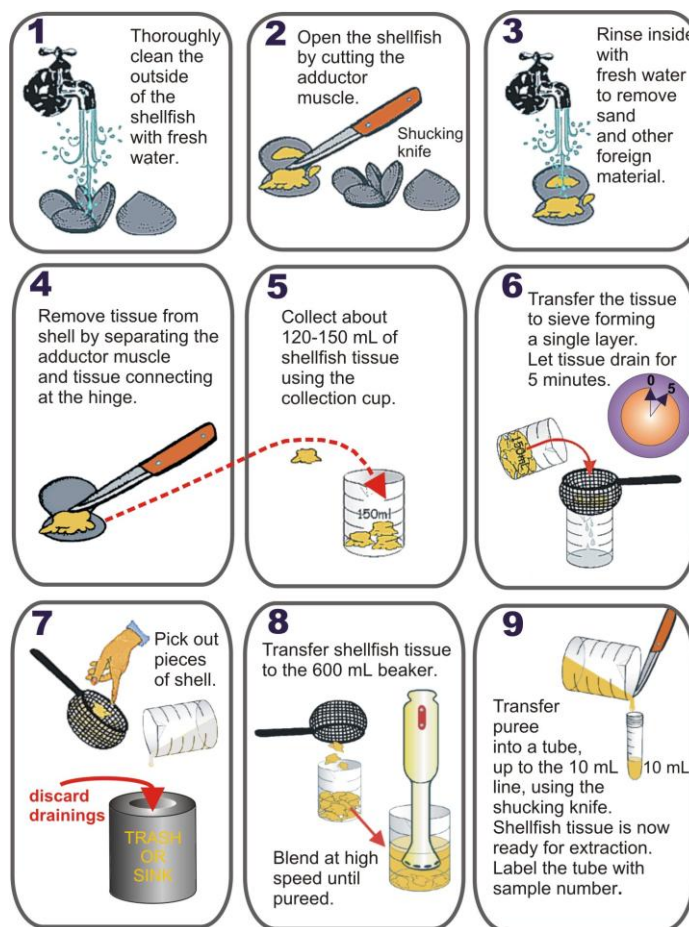


Shellfish Tissue Preparation involves removing the tissue from the shell and blending into a uniform texture which will be ready for extraction. The following is a step by step method recommended for all Scotia Rapid Tests.



Equipment required to prepare shellfish tissue:

- Shucking Knife
- 600 ml plastic beakers*
- Plastic sieve*
- Blender
- Centrifuge tubes 50ml*

*Available for purchase from Scotia Rapid Testing Ltd.

This tissue preparation can be used on bivalves such as mussels, clams and oysters and is used with AOAC, Rapid, Methanol and Methanol/Hydrolysis extraction methods.

You must extract only one shellfish type for each test due to the different uptake and metabolism of toxins by each shellfish type. For example, mussels are often used as sentinel

species in biotoxin monitoring because they take up the toxins very quickly. In contrast, oysters take up the toxin very slowly. Therefore, at a given time in a biotoxin bloom, mussels may be already toxic while oysters may not be toxic yet.

It is important that there is a representative sample of the shellfish being tested. Toxicity can be very irregular throughout an area and amongst individual animals even in a small area. The representative sample must consist of a minimum of 12 animals and at least 120g of shellfish meat.

The speed (rpm) of the blender will determine whether it is able to effectively homogenize shellfish tissue, especially tough tissue like large clams. Our experience indicates that 2000 rpm or more is sufficient.

Cleaning Up

Clean all used equipment thoroughly with 5% household bleach and rinse well with tap water before re-using with another sample to avoid cross contamination.

