

# US EPA Method 527 — Determination of Pesticides and Flame Retardants in Drinking Water

## **INTRODUCTION**

This method was developed for the automated extraction of pesticides and flame retardants as described in EPA Method 527. The analytes are determined by capillary column gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (GC/MS).

## **METHOD SUMMARY**

5 mL of methanol is added to one liter of sample and spiked with 10 µL of 500 µg/mL surrogate solution. The samples are passed through a 47 mm Polystyrenedivinylbenzene (SDVB) SPE disk. After elution with ethyl acetate and dichloromethane, the extract is concentrated down to a final volume of 1.0 mL. Extracts were fortified with 10 µL of 500 µg/L internal standard solution and analyzed using a GC/MS in accordance with EPA Method 527.

## **INSTRUMENTATION USED FOR SAMPLE PREPARATION**

Dionex AutoTrace® instrument

## **EQUIPMENT SPECIFICATIONS AND OPERATING CONDITIONS**

Sample evaporated as follows:

- Solvent starting volume: 25 mL
- Solvent end volume: 1.0 mL
- Solvent: Ethyl acetate/dichloromethane
- Bath temperature: 30 °C

CG/MS or MSD:

- Column: Restek Rxi-5MS 30 M column,  
0.25 mm ID, 0.25 µm df
- Initial Temp: 80 °C for 1.0 min

Ramp: 10.0 °C/min

Final Temp: 320 °C for 2.0 min

Inlet Temp: 250 °C

SPE Disk Used:

47 mm Polystyrenedivinylbenzene (SDVB) SPE disk

## **AutoTrace Instrument Procedure**

Process the six samples using the following procedure:

- Step 1: Condition disk with 5.0 mL of 1:1 EtAc/MeCl<sub>2</sub> into solvent waste.
- Step 2: Pause for 1 min.
- Step 3: Dry disk with gas for 1 min.
- Step 4: Condition disk with 10.0 mL of CH<sub>3</sub>OH into solvent waste.
- Step 5: Pause for 1 min.
- Step 6: Condition disk twice with 10.0 mL of reagent water into aqueous waste.
- Step 7: Load 1000 mL of sample onto disk.
- Step 8: Dry disk with gas for 9.0 min.
- Step 9: Manually rinse sample container twice with 5.0 mL to collect (EtAc).
- Step 10: Manually rinse sample container with 5.0 mL to collect (MeCl<sub>2</sub>).
- Step 11: Soak and collect 5.0 mL fraction to a second tube using 1:1 EtAc/MeCl<sub>2</sub>.
- Step 12: Collect 5.0 mL fraction into sample tube using 1:1 EtAc/MeCl<sub>2</sub>.

Solvent 1: 1:1 EtAc/MeCl <sub>2</sub>	Cond Flow: 10 mL/min
Solvent 2: CH <sub>3</sub> OH	Load Flow: 15 mL/min
Solvent 3: Water	Rinse Flow: 20.0 mL/min
Solvent 4: MeCl <sub>2</sub> (Dichloromethane)	Elute Flow: 5.0 mL/min
Solvent 5: EtAc (Ethyl acetate)	Cond Air Push: 15.0 mL/min
	Rinse Air Push: 20.0 mL/min
	Elute Air Push: 5.0 mL/min

## RESULTS

The following table shows recoveries of selected compounds.

Compound	Mean (ug/L) n=4	Accuracy Mean Rec (%)	Precision/% RSD
Dimethoate	2.11	105.3	7.07
Terbufos-Sulfone	1.94	97.0	5.94
BDE-47	0.81	80.8	3.83
BDE-100	0.81	81.3	5.06
BDE-99	0.88	88.3	1.94
HBB	0.85	86.0	4.55
DBE-153	0.92	92.3	3.58

BDE – Bromodiphenyl Ether  
HBB – Hexabromobiphenyl

## CONCLUSION

Sample bottles were chilled during extraction to ensure the high recovery of dimethoate. Due to the nature of the BDEs and some surrogates, the sample bottle rinsing steps after sample loading are very important. Automation of the extraction with the AutoTrace instrument ensures consistency throughout the extraction batches.

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### Dionex Corporation

1228 Titan Way  
P.O. Box 3603  
Sunnyvale, CA  
94088-3603  
(408) 737-0700

### North America

U.S. (847) 295-7500

### South America

Brazil (55) 11 3731 5140

### Europe

Austria (43) 1 616 51 25 Benelux (31) 20 683 9768; (32) 3 353 4294  
Denmark (45) 36 36 90 90 France (33) 1 39 30 01 10 Germany (49) 6126 991 0  
Ireland (353) 1 644 0064 Italy (39) 02 51 62 1267 Sweden (46) 8 473 3380  
Switzerland (41) 62 205 9966 United Kingdom (44) 1276 691722

### Asia Pacific

Australia (61) 2 9420 5233 China (852) 2428 3282 India (91) 22 2764 2735  
Japan (81) 6 6885 1213 Korea (82) 2 2653 2580 Singapore (65) 6289 1190  
Taiwan (886) 2 8751 6655

[www.dionex.com](http://www.dionex.com)



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